

Magic Ramen: The Story of Momofuku Ando

Classroom applications: activities and reflection questions

Prepared by:



ASIA CENTER

THE UNIVERSITY OF UTAH

OVERVIEW & PURPOSE

Listed here are prompts that you can expand upon for developing your own plans for classroom activities. This is an interactive document, choose a text color and write some notes about the projects and activities that would work for you or jot down some ideas that you developed.

- Project and Activity Ideas**
1. Exploration of Food insecurity globally and locally.
 - Research hunger and access to food locally.
 - Choose a problem and work to contribute to its solution as a class.
 - Consider a volunteer experience with a foodbank or conducting a food drive.
 2. Explore the comic book elements employed by the illustrator, use of panels in the experimenting scenes, thought bubbles and splitting pages...
 - Consider assigning students a comic book project to explain what they learned about the research project on food insecurity.
 3. The publisher's educators guide has some great suggestions for classroom activities, which ones make sense for your classroom?
 - Teacher's Guide from Little Bee Books:
https://littlebeebooks.com/wp-content/uploads/woocommerce_uploads/2019/03/Magic-Ramen-Teachers-Guide-.pdf

Reflection Questions (These are questions you can prepare your own answers for but also pose to students)

1. If there is a food that you could make "instant" the way that Ando made Ramen accessible, what food would you make "instant"? Why? How would you start?
2. Do you think there is still a need for nutritious and affordable food?
3. Have you ever been discouraged when you tried to do something but didn't achieve the outcome you hoped for? How did that feel? What did you do? How do you think Ando felt when his experiments didn't work?
4. Ramen traces its origin to China but is considered a Japanese food. What other foods are considered part of a country or nation's history but have origins outside that place? For example: tomatoes in Italian cooking (tomatoes are from the Americas) What "American" food has roots in other countries and cultures? This could be a fun research activity for individual or group work to choose a dish and dig into its origins. Some examples: chocolate, peanut butter, pickles, mustard, tacos al pastor, mongolian bbq, french fries, arroz chaufa (chinese peruvian fried rice) This could be a great opportunity for students to share and explore their cultures and assumptions about culture.