



Grandma's Scones

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START UP

List some foods that you associate with special memories or times in your life. Compare your list with a partner's list and explain why you chose the foods on your list.

SENSE IMAGERY

A sense image is a picture that is created in your mind involving one or more of your five senses (hearing, taste, touch, smell, sight).

"I came to California when I turned seventeen.
Before, I'd never left my town of Skibereen.
But across the miles," my grandma said, "all on my own,
Ireland would return in every taste of every **scone**."

I'd visit and she'd butter scones and pour us tea,
And tell of growing up an orphan in a village by the sea.
Emerald hills and golden shores by lakes of bluest silk
Were treasures for that **scullery girl** eating bread-and-milk.

Best was Sunday evening, when the old folks told their stories
Of heroes and high kings and all of Ireland's glories.
They spoke, as well, of children lost to fairy mounds
And warned: Beware of **banshees**, for death is in their sounds.

scone: *small, biscuit-like pastry*

scullery girl: *young maid*

banshees: *wailing spirits that foreshadow death*

"We ate our scones **enraptured**," my grandma would recall.
"One bite brings back those days as if I hadn't left at all."
And though I'd never been there, like magic, scones and tea
Carried me to bright-dark Ireland and that village by the sea.

Crusty outside, inside light and sweet as sugared air,
Each was tastier for the countless currants hidden there.
All these years later, when I have a scone with tea,
I'm back where Grandma **regales** a younger, spellbound me.

enraptured: *with delight*

regales: *entertains*



ZOOM IN

- With a partner, practise reading this poem aloud. One person will read the grandmother's words and the other the speaker's.
 - Pay attention to the meaning and punctuation when deciding where to stop for breath.
 - Make a recording of a dramatic reading of the poem.
 - Include appropriate sound effects.
 - Compare your interpretation with another group's.
- This poem creates very strong sense images that take the speaker back to his childhood.
 - With a partner, choose several sense images from the poem.
 - Describe the feelings each image creates for the speaker.



ZOOM OUT

- Choose one of the foods you discussed in the Start Up activity and add more details about the memories you have of it.
 - Take your list of ideas and transform it into a different format (poem, rap, collage, and so on).
 - Present your finished work to a partner.
 - Explain why you chose the form you did to describe your memories.