

The Best Lunch Yet

by

Kimberly Fontenot

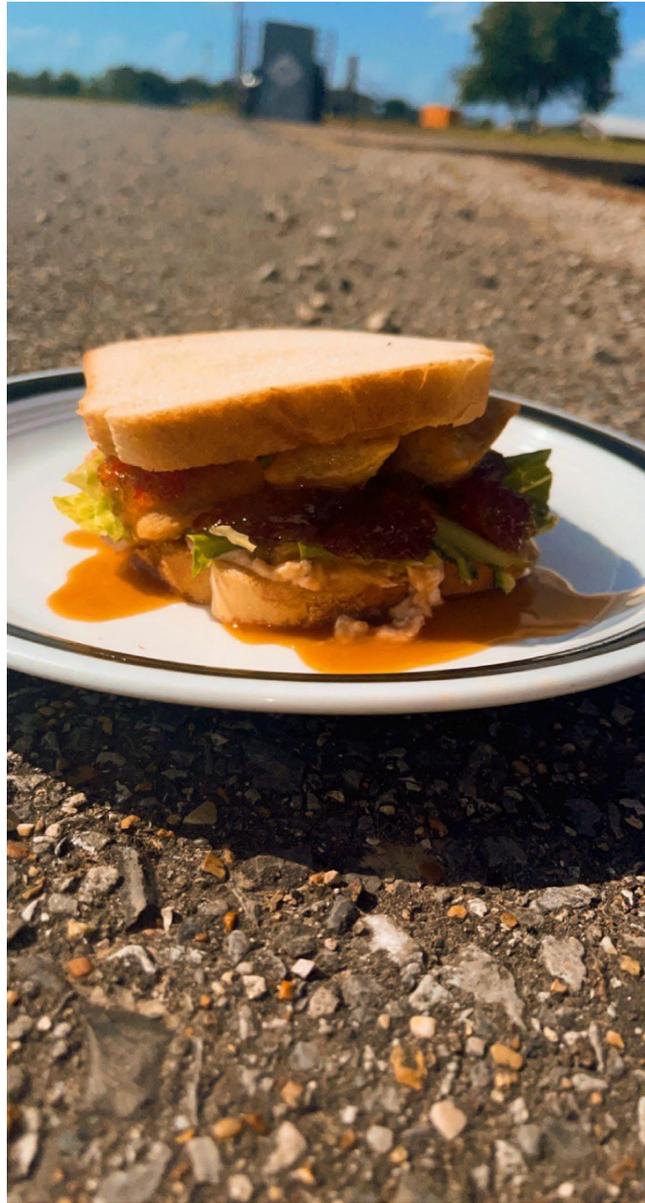
Children's Literature
College of Education
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Author's Purpose

The purpose for writing this story is to share a very important part of my culture, because it is important to be the voice of the Louisiana children that they can relate to. I want the Creole and Cajun little boys and girls to feel seen and accurately represented. As a Creole child growing up in Louisiana, I cannot remember a time where I had the feeling “Wow, they are just like me!” or, “I know that place, I’ve been there!” Nothing written in/about Louisiana resonated with me, which is a genuine issue. Louisiana literature does not have to portray swamps, bayous, or food like Louisiana crawfish. The purpose is to show underrepresented cultures, like Creole in Louisiana who are missing in Louisiana children’s literature. The author’s purpose is to write with authenticity of character, whether they look like them, or identify with their personality.

This chapter is a work of humorous fiction to include Louisiana locations and language. This story is grade level 3 appropriate, the tone of this story is mischievous, determined, and retaliating.

The Best Lunch Yet



Have you ever had an experience with a bully? Someone who made you not want to go to school? This is a story about a girl named Kaisey who is dealing with a bully and will finally get the revenge that everyone dreams of.

Kaisey is 9 years old; she is light skinned **Creole** girl with thick glasses, and stubby legs. She loves to read, laugh, and listen to her favorite **zydeco** music every

morning by **Beau Jocque**. Every morning Kaisey walks the two blocks to her elementary school in Ville Platte, Louisiana with her iPod at all times. There are no swamps around here, just little houses and paved streets everywhere. Every morning on this two-block walk is where Kaisey deals with her issue; a bully, named Joseph. Kaisey is pretty sure his sole mission is to ruin her elementary school life by making her miss out on her mom's tasty cooking, and she refuses to let him! Now that you know the basics, we can begin the story...

“BEEP! BEEP! BEEP! BEEP!” I jumped out of my sleep and slammed my hand on the alarm clock.

My mom peeked her head into my room to make sure I was awake, “Come on, Kaisey! Get up! It's Monday, and a brand-new start to the week!” she said cheerfully. “Who wakes up on a Monday, and is excited about it?” she thought to herself. That's one thing I will never understand.

Kaisey stood up, stretched, and started getting ready for school. She threw on the boring uniform everyone must wear to school. She tucked her gray shirt into her khaki pants and walked out of her room and into the kitchen.

“Mm, Mom something smells good!” Kaisey could recognize the wonderful aroma of her mom's cooking from anywhere.

Mom smiled and turned around to show me what smelled so great, “It’s your lunch, Kaisey. I packed you half a grilled chicken **po’boy**. Let me know how it tastes!”

Kaisey smiled. She really wants to eat this delicious **po’boy** right now. Her mom put crisp lettuce, mayo, and big red tomatoes on it. Instead, she ate her normal breakfast of oatmeal and fruit, grabbed her lunch bag, then set off to school.

Before Kaisey walked out the door she grabbed her iPod, set one earbud in her ear, and put her favorite song on, “Give Him Cornbread” by **Beau Jocque**.

As soon as Kaisey heard the accordion and **Beau Jocque’s** beautiful voice she began walking with purpose. Kaisey was bopping her head and ready to **zydeco** dance with anyone near her. As she went down the street and the song is about over, someone pulls her earbud out of her ear!

Before she turns around, all she hears is “Kaisey, Kaisey, looks so crazy” Kaisey clutched her lunch bag tighter and turned around to face the person that tries his best to make her life miserable. “What do you want, Joseph?” Kaisey said.

Joseph used his long legs to his advantage and snatched her lunch bag from her hand. “Thanks for the breakfast, Kaisey!” Joseph tore the bag open and began to devour my delicious **po’boy** right in front of her! He shoved it down his throat like an animal in four bites, then burped loudly. He threw Kaisey’s now empty bag

at her and said, “Next time tell your mom no tomatoes. I hate them” He then ran down the street.

Kaisey looked at her empty lunch bag angrily. Thankfully, she had extra snacks in her backpack to keep from starving at lunch. She thought to herself, “I am not missing any of my mom’s amazing meals anymore.”

Kaisey walked the rest of the way to school and spent the whole school day trying to think of a plan.

Kaisey woke up the next morning before her alarm had a chance to ring with a new idea. She was going to make an extra lunch! So, if Joseph takes one of them, she would have another one to eat at lunchtime. Kaisey quickly told her mom, “Don’t worry Mom, I’ll fix my own lunch today!” She smiled and said, “Okay, Kaisey, make sure you aren’t late for school.”

Kaisey went into the kitchen and made two peanut butter and jelly sandwiches; she put one into her lunch bag, and the other carefully in her backpack. She kissed my mom goodbye then prepared to walk to school.

Kaisey put my one of her earbuds in and played “The Second Line” by **Beau Jocque**; another favorite song.

As she is walking to school and enjoying her wonderful **zydeco** music, Kaisey feels the familiar tug of my earbud out my ear, and Joseph’s big fat mouth saying, “Good morning, Kaisey! What’d you bring me for breakfast today?”

Before she could think of a smart reply, he snatches her lunch bag and digs into the **decoy** peanut butter and jelly sandwich. Kaisey smiles as he eats, thinking, “I’ve won.” As she begins to turn to finish the walk to school, Joseph pulls her backpack off! She stares at him in shock. As he tears open the backpack he tells her, “I saw you eating those snacks at lunch yesterday! Don’t think you can fool me! Now I have an extra lunch for me and my friends.” He took her real lunch and threw her backpack on the ground and takes off running to school.

Kaisey sat down and before she began to cry, she tells herself, “No! I won’t let this bully make me cry! I’ll just think of an even better idea.” Kaisey pulled herself together and finished the walk to school.

She woke up the next morning for school still upset. She pulled on the boring navy-blue skirt and gray collared shirt and walk out of her room hopeless.

Kaisey saw her mom making a turkey sandwich for lunch and decides to ask her a question. “Mom, how do you outsmart someone?”

She stops what she is doing so she can give me her full attention. She thinks for a minute, then says “Well Kaisey, when it comes to outsmarting someone, you have to think creatively, and out of the box.” She smiled and finished making lunch.

Kaisey watched her for a minute, then smiled a **mischievous** smile. “Hey Mom, is there still leftover pizza rolls in the fridge?” Kaisey’s mom turned around

confused and said, “Sure, Honey.” She handed me my lunch bag and walked into the living room. Kaisey quickly took the lunch and put it into my backpack, under her jacket. She ran to the fridge and begin to make Joseph the best lunch yet. If this doesn’t stop him, she doesn’t know what will.

Kaisey opened the fridge to look at the contents. She grabbed six pizza rolls, **pepper jelly**, caramel sauce, raw onions, lettuce, and old tuna salad from supper two nights ago. With these ingredients she wanted to make the biggest, most disgusting sandwich for Joseph. She carefully put the disgusting sandwich in her lunch bag and began the journey to school with a huge smile on her face. Before she walked out the door, she put my earbud in and decide to play, “Tighten Up” by **Beau Jocque**.

As Kaisey walked to school singing along, she saw Joseph’s long shadow alongside of her. Before he can pull her earbud out, she turned around quickly and handed him the lunch bag. “Good morning, Joseph. Here’s your breakfast. I made it myself and I hope you love it; its one of my favorites.” He looks at Kaisey, very **bewildered** but takes the lunch bag and smiles like an evil villain. “Its about time you get with the program. I expect breakfast like this every morning,” He opened the bag, grabbed the sandwich, and took the biggest, grossest bite she had ever seen. Kaisey started laughing with glee when his face turned sour, his eyes bulged out of his head, and he stared at the sandwich in horror!

“What’s wrong, Joseph? Don’t you like my favorite recipe?” it took all his might to swallow his huge bite of that sandwich. Kaisey smirked and said, “Joseph, wasn’t it your best lunch yet? You food stealer!” Surprisingly, Joseph hung his head and began to cry. “I’m sorry, Kaisey! I live right next to you, and I always see you walking to school. I don’t have any friends, I lied. I just wanted to talk to you I don’t know why I took your lunches!” As Joseph cried shamefully in front of her, she looked at him and sighed. “Its okay, Joseph. Stop crying. I’ll be your friend if you agree to never ever steal again.” Joseph wiped his eyes and nodded quickly. “I promise, Kaisey! And here, my mom and dad baked cookies last night. You can have mine.” Joseph handed me a huge chocolate chip cookie. She broke it in half and handed him a piece. The two new friends began to finish the walk to school together, and as they chewed the chocolaty delicious of that cookie, Kaisey smiled and asked, “So Joseph, was that sandwich the best lunch yet?” He looked at me slowly and they began cackling like Hyenas. The new friends finished the walk with the wonderful music of Beau Jocque and laughter filled their ears.

Vocabulary

Beau Jocque- A Louisiana Creole Zydeco musician famous in the 1990's. He combined different genres of music like rock, soul, hip-hop, and reggae with zydeco to create music that made people jump out of their seat and dance. Beau Jocque (real name Andrus Espre) was born in Duralde, Louisiana in 1952. Beau Jocque did not start off as a musician, in his early adult years he worked as an electrician, but then hurt his back and was paralyzed from the waist down for a year. As he recovered from this injury, he learned how to play his father's accordion, and decided to change the traditional "boring" zydeco music and set off to create his own sound. Beau Jocque unfortunately died in 1999 of a heart attack after nine years of a great zydeco career. Even though Beau Jocque is gone, his legacy will live on through his music forever.

Bewildered- confused, very puzzled.

Creole- a person of mixed European, French, Spanish, and African Descent that may speak a mixed dialect of French or Spanish.

Decoy- fake version of something used to play a trick.

Mischievous- person, animal, or behavior causing or showing a fondness for causing trouble in a playful way.

Pepper Jelly- preserve made with peppers, sugar, and salt in a jelly or vinegar base, has a flavor of spicy and sweet.

Po'boy- Traditional sandwich from Louisiana that almost always consists of meat and is served on French bread that has a crispy crust and fluffy center.

Zydeco- Black American dance music originally from southern Louisiana, featuring accordion and guitar.

References

Louisiana Believes State Standards. (2011). https://www.louisianabelieves.com/docs/default-source/academic-curriculum/standards---k-12-social-studies.pdf?sfvrsn=24665cc3_39

Social Studies

Standard 4: People, Land, Environment

1. 3.4.1 Compare and contrast the physical features of various regions of Louisiana
2. 3.4.6 Distinguish between urban, suburban, and rural communities in Louisiana.

Standard 1: Chronological and Historical Thinking

1. 3.1.3 Use distinctive vocabulary to sequence events related to Louisiana history.

Louisiana Believes State Standards. (2022). https://www.louisianabelieves.com/docs/default-source/teacher-toolbox-resources/k-12-ela-standards.pdf?sfvrsn=52b98a1f_38

ELA

Key Ideas and Details

1. Recount stories, including fables, folktales, and myths from diverse cultures; determine the central message, lesson, or moral and explain how it is conveyed through key details in the text.

Write narratives to develop real or imagined experiences or events using effective technique, descriptive details, and clear event sequences.

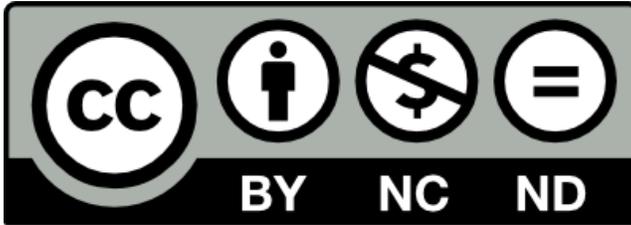
- b. Use dialogue and descriptions of actions, thoughts, and feelings to develop experiences and events or show the response of characters to situations.
 - d. Provide a sense of closure.

References

Beau Jocque. (2022). 45, Musician Whose Band Updated Zydeco
<https://www.nytimes.com/1999/09/13/arts/beau-jocque-45-musician-whose-band-updated-zydeco.html>.

Henry, E. (2004). Beau Jocque. RollingStone.com
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Author's Bio

Kimberly Fontenot attends the University of Louisiana at Lafayette majoring in Elementary Education. During her freetime she loves to cook traditional Louisiana meals for her family and friends. Kimberly loves to read, to experience new things, watch movies, and just talk and laugh with anyone. Kimberly plans on graduating from college as a teacher who loves her profession with care for each of her students and their talents.

