

Different Yolks

Every morning, my dad makes scrambled eggs. He takes two eggs, cracks them into his coined “egg pan,”¹ and mixes them around using wooden chopsticks. When they’re cooked, he takes out two plates. Almost all the eggs go on one plate; those are for him. But a small portion of them are gently placed on the second plate for our cat, Aston, to eat. My dad eats at the dinner table while Aston eats at his feet. They happily eat their breakfast together. Every single day.

While incredibly endearing, I must admit that Aston has horrible taste. There are easily 101² different ways to cook an egg, yet he only likes them scrambled. When I cook my own eggs, he will run over and meow in excitement, but the second he realizes that they aren’t scrambled, he loses all interest. I don’t get too offended because cats shouldn’t be eating that many eggs in the first place³, but I still think he should at least try something new. Eating the same style of egg has to get boring, right?

Eggs are kind of weird. In their raw form, they’re just a bunch of clear goop with a yellow blob encased in a white or brown shell. But once the shell is split open, an egg is unstoppable. For example, that egg could be fried in a pan and thrown on top of toast, it could land in a crater of flour and become hand-made pasta⁴, it could be scrambled for your boring cat’s breakfast, it could be boiled, steamed, mixed into a cake, it can truly become anything.

I’ve also noticed that everyone has an opinion on eggs. People either love them, hate them, are allergic, are vegan, find them gross if they think about it for too long, are very particular about them, or anywhere else in between.⁵

My favorite kind are Singaporean styled soft-boiled eggs. These eggs take the term “soft-boiled” very loosely. When you order them, you’re served two fully intact eggs on a

¹ He made an effort to go out and buy this pan so it’s the “perfect size for eggs”

² Syed, Zareen. “101 Ways to Cook an Egg.” The Daily Meal, August 27, 2020, <https://www.thedailymeal.com/cook/eggs-101>

³ “Can Cats Eat Eggs?” Purina, <https://www.purina.com/articles/cat/nutrition/can-cats-eat-eggs>.

⁴ “Homemade Pasta.” Gimme Some Oven, <https://www.gimmesomeoven.com/homemade-pasta/>

⁵ If you couldn’t tell, I’m the first kind of egg person.

plate. As the consumer, you crack the eggs into your plate as if they were raw, only they're not. The eggs are only boiled for a short six minutes; they're safe to eat, but their texture and consistency are very runny. Once the eggs are dancing together on the plate, they are topped with sweet soy sauce and to be thoroughly enjoyed.⁶

Every country has its own way of preparing eggs. In Brazil, they're baked with sugar to make a sweet treat called quindim. In Israel, they serve shakshuka, which consists of poached eggs in a rich, red sauce. And in the United Kingdom, they wrap their hard-boiled eggs with sausage and call them scotch eggs⁷. They're truly universal.

All these dishes are wildly different, they all start with a single, simple egg. And as humans, we're the exact same. Across the globe, humans are extremely diverse. While we don't typically get thrown into a pan to be eaten, everyone has their own unique combination of beliefs that come from their personal experiences and surroundings. Each individual on this planet has their own individual identity.

But at the end of the day, we're all people. Someone who spent years going through school to become a lawyer in America is just as much of a person as someone who is a street vendor in China. A newborn child in Ghana is just as much of a person as a retired grandparent in Russia.

Eggs are a symbol of life. They represent the beginning of a beautiful cycle, one that we are a part of. This cycle is what holds all of us together. Every single person who has ever lived on this earth has played their role in this infinite cycle.

The next time you find yourself holding a negative opinion of someone, picture yourself as scrambled eggs and them as fried eggs⁸. By nature, you're different. You were cooked differently, giving you natural differences. But at the end of the day you're both eggs, so how different can you really be?

⁶ If you aren't squeamish about that sort of thing, I highly suggest trying this style of egg if ever presented the opportunity.

⁷ Wallwork, Rebecca. "The world's best egg dishes." CNN, June 6, 2020. <https://www.cnn.com/travel/article/best-egg-dishes-world/index.html>

⁸ Scrambled and fried eggs are not the only way of going about this. If you'd like, you picture yourself as some noodles and them as a cake. As long as you are both eggs.

“Can Cats Eat Eggs?” *Purina*, <https://www.purina.com/articles/cat/nutrition/can-cats-eat-eggs>.

This is a short article from Purina, a pet food company, answering the question in its title. It's straight to the point about if eggs are harmful for cats of any age. It also details how to prepare eggs for a cat and portion control if it chooses to eat them.

“Homemade Pasta.” *Gimme Some Oven*, <https://www.gimmesomeoven.com/home-made-pasta/>

This is a detailed recipe for homemade pasta. Not only does it include the basic recipe, it also details three different ways to prepare the pasta which are with a stand mixer, with a food processor, or by hand. The section about making pasta by hand is the most detailed as making pasta by hand requires much more effort than when using a machine.

Syed, Zareen. “101 Ways to Cook an Egg.” *The Daily Meal*, August 27, 2020, <https://www.thedailymeal.com/cook/eggs-101>

This is a long article with 101 different egg recipes. Some of them are straightforward and just have you fry the egg, while others are more complicated and result in cakes and waffles. Every listed recipe includes a picture, a brief description and a link to a full recipe. The title of the article was an easy grab and statistic to use in order to emphasize how many different ways an egg could be cooked.

Wallwork, Rebecca. “The world’s best egg dishes.” *CNN*, June 6, 2020. <https://www.cnn.com/travel/article/best-egg-dishes-world/index.html>

This article from *CNN Travel* is a list of 42 different egg delicacies from around the world. Each style of egg includes its name, country of origin, a short description of how it's prepared and its taste. Majority of the dishes are accompanied by an appealing photo of the dish.

Intention Statement

Of the many lyrical essays we read as examples in class, Eula Biss's "Time and Distance Overcome" was my favorite. I loved the way she was able to write about telephone polls, something so seemingly innocent, yet used it as a visual metaphor for something much deeper. While I knew I didn't want to write about something as intense, I still wanted to replicate that deeper, visual metaphor through my own writing.

I came up with my essay topic when I was eating my breakfast, which happened to be some eggs. I didn't really know where that would lead me, but I figured it was a simple, light hearted topic I could write about. When I outlined this essay, it was going to be much more matter of fact; I even had a source that explained the biological breakdown of an egg. It was all around more boring and less personal.

But when I began to write this essay, I threw that boring outline aside. I wanted this essay to be fun and refreshing, so I just wrote from personal experience. I love eating eggs and wanted that enthusiasm to reflect in my writing. From talking about my dad and our cat to admitting that eggs can be pretty strange, I wrote it all down. Through this approach, the essay began to flow a lot more smoothly.

By allowing myself to ramble about my love for Singaporean soft-boiled eggs, I was able to uncover the meaning of an egg, which served as the conclusion to my essay. While not on the exact same scale, I was able to relate eating an egg to relating with others, similar to how Biss was able to relate ordinary telephone polls to something as severe as lynching.

While I didn't have this done in time for a peer review, I did draw inspiration from my classmate, Emily's, lyrical essay that she read for the class. In her essay, she used footnotes to add additional commentary to her essay, giving it a more personal touch. which was a technique that we read in David Foster Wallace's "Consider the Lobster." Even more than Wallace, I loved how the footnotes in Emily's essay helped to strengthen her personal voice in her essay. I also tried my best to incorporate footnotes to help make sure that my voice as an author would stick out to the reader.