

*The True*

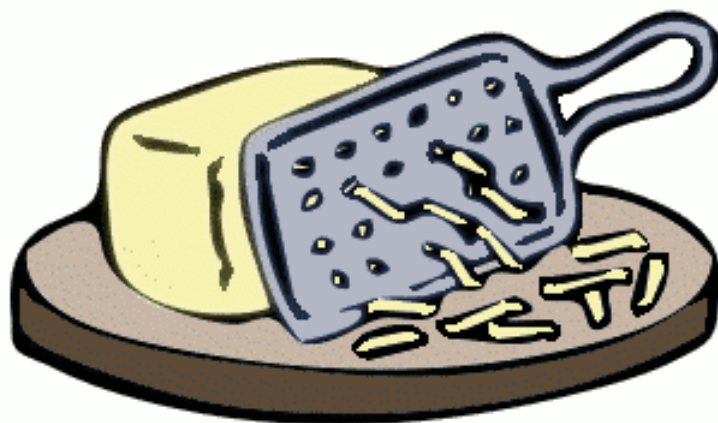
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**The Gouda**

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*The Beautiful*

By the 5th Grade Students of Aristoi Classical Academy



# *The True ☺ The Gouda ☺ The Beautiful*

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## *Introduction*

"Poets have been mysteriously silent on the subject of cheese," noticed British author G. K. Chesterton.

Some writers have objected to this statement, pointing to examples of poetry written to or about cheese, such as the works of Canada's James McIntyre. The delicious "Sonnet to a Stilton Cheese" was written by Chesterton himself.<sup>1</sup> I think these objections miss a salient point, namely the adjective-modifying adverb *mysteriously*.

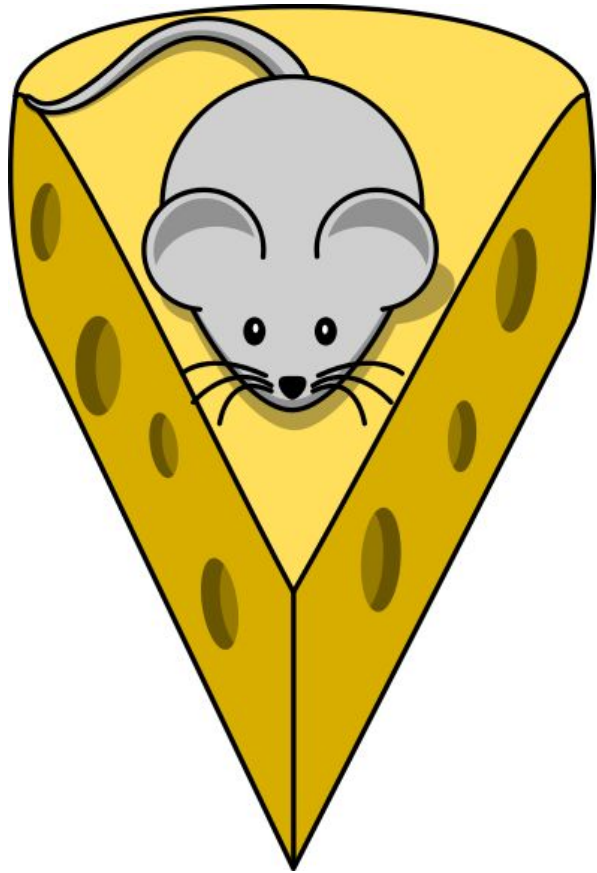
Think of it this way: Cheese is obviously amazing. It's been around in dozens of varieties for centuries. Cheese forms an important part of peoples' diets the world over. Among the great mysteries of history is why so few poets have written about such an important topic.

We here at Aristoi Classical Academy cannot abide injustice, and, thus, we can no longer tolerate the dearth of cheese-themed poetry. And so: this volume, written by the 5th graders between 27 February and 9 March 2012 under the benevolent gaze of me, Mr. Chance.

Each 5th grader was challenged to write four poems: a haiku, a tanka, a limerick, and a sonnet. The challenge was met with vim and vigor. I selected one poem from each student to include in this volume.

Enjoy!

Mark L. Chance



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1 See <http://www.raspberryworld.com/recipes/odes.html> for McIntyre's inspiring "Ode on the Mammoth Cheese". Chesterton's cheese sonnet is found at <http://www.catholic-forum.com/saints/gkc13002.htm>.

## HAIKUS

A haiku is a traditional form of Japanese poetry that strives for descriptive brevity. The goal is to capture a moment in time in word form in only 17 syllables. Our haikus don't always follow the traditional structure precisely, but it's okay. We're licensed poets.

**By Marco Aguirre**

The tasty cheese melted  
in the oven like a mud  
slide in Oregon.

**By Miriam Angeles**

Very delicious  
cheese melted in my burger.  
You could feel the cheese.

**By Justin Casada**

Cheese is a disease.  
Please help me find my keys.  
They're next to the cheese.

**By Marcus Chantz**

Who likes to eat cheese?  
Cheese is not my favorite.  
It's the opposite.

**By Cayla Fast**

Flavored gold: Gouda  
simmers slowly upon heat  
as we smell the sweet.

**By Hannah Jezierski**

He is eating cheese,  
and turns all red and puffy.  
Now he won't eat cheese.



**By Miracle McGinty**

Swiss cheese looks  
like the moon with holes.  
It tastes really good.

**By Austin McMaster**

My mother is cheese.  
She is a cannibal cheese  
'cause she eats herself.

**By Renee Summers**

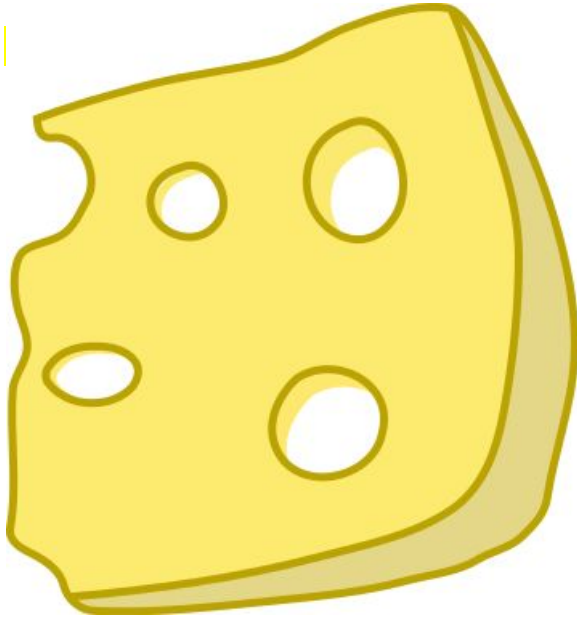
Slices of Gouda  
fall ever so lightly to  
the unforgiving ground.

**By Cameron Tackett**

I see my mother  
cooking cheese. It makes me want  
to sneeze out cheese peas.

**By Michael Wilson**

I eat Colby Jack  
cheese. I pour it on my chips  
for the Super Bowl.



**By Bella Andre**

Pepper Jack: spicy,  
flavorful, popular with  
bread, usually used  
in Tex-Mex, but also in soup.  
Semi-soft cheese brings delight.

**By Jassy Bauman**

Cold cheese is the best.  
The refrigerator helps.  
If my cheese is hot,  
I have nachos for dinner.  
I love cheese, and cheese loves me.

**By Henry Botond**

Cheese tastes very good.  
Joe likes to eat it a lot.  
It is so yummy.  
I also like to eat pie,  
but I like it more with cheese.

## TANKAS

The tanka is the lesser known sister of the haiku.  
Tanka are a bit longer at 31 syllables. These extra  
syllables let a tanka tell more of a story.

**By Ethan Eve**

Cheese tastes great with bread.  
You cook it up, then get plates.  
Then, you share with friends.  
Once you're done, pick up the plates.  
Cheese smells great once you add meat.

**By Gion George**

"May I have some cheese?"  
Maybe if I speak louder  
they will hear me ask.  
"May I please have some Swiss cheese!?"  
Please, Swiss is the kind I like."

**By Kelly Lamb**

Glistening at me.  
Cheddar cheese: it calls to me,  
smelling wonderful,  
like a brick of tasty food.  
I eat it very fast.

**By Bailee Lester**

I am trying to  
get the most best burger that  
I have ever seen. It  
has Swiss cheese with Colby Jack  
on it, and the cheese is great.

**By Nadia Simpson**

Carefully, thy lie,  
staring at me with thy holes.  
Thinking of you in  
warm bread. Thy can be cold or  
very warm. Oh, I love you!

## Limericks

Unlike haikus and tankas, syllable count is not important for a limerick. Instead, a limerick conforms to an AABBA rime scheme, and it should be whimsical and fun.

**By Christopher Campbell**

There once was a cheese called brie,  
who thought it would be fun to be free.  
So it looked up to the sky  
and started to fly,  
but ended up with a hurt knee.

**By Daniela Cano**

Once Mr. and Ms. Swiss were in the pool  
in the mist, falling and cool,  
when he said, "Oh! How fun!"  
Ms. Swiss disagreed and said, "Look! The sun!"  
Now Swiss is creamy and melting in the hot pool.

**By Elyse Cummins**

It was a cheesy cheese.  
It needed a breeze.  
The cheese needed to get back,  
so get the Tic Tac.  
The dog ate cheese, and it has fleas.

**By Ben Donnell**

There was a cheese from a box.  
It took a long walk to the docks.  
It got picked up by a dog,  
who hid it in a log.  
The cheese walked out and got eaten by a fox.

**By Pryce Lower**

Cheese feared me.  
Cheese feared we.  
Cheese feared the hen.  
Cheese feared the wren.  
Cheese feared me.



**By Marc Miranda**

I once knew a boy who loved cheese.  
He wandered around on his knees  
searching to steal it from mice.  
He wasn't very nice.  
That's why he now looks like cheese.

**By Nicole Pflughaupt**

My cheese is burning,  
but it's learning  
why it won't cook.  
Now come and look.  
You will have to wait 'til morning.

**By Ryan Smerz**

There was once a cheese named bleu  
who got mixed with some stew.  
It started to melt.  
Then it smelt  
like a day-old bucket of goo.

**By Chloe Smith**

There was an old man with a block of cheese.  
I said, "Might I have a slice of cheese, please?"  
He said, "Get your own."  
By then I had to groan,  
"Does everyone have cheese but me? I sneeze!"

## *Elizabethan Sonnets*

The Elizabethan, or Shakespearean, sonnet is the most challenging poetic form we tackled for this project. It combines specific syllable counts (ten per line), specific length (fourteen lines), and defined rhyme scheme (ABAB CDCD EFEF GG). The 5th graders tackled these sonnets like the San Francisco 49ers' Patrick Willis.

### **By Cody Grissom**

American cheese, you have deliciousness.  
You are so creamy on my hot grilled bread.  
Parmesan on the table, what a mess!  
On spaghetti, I put you in my head.

I love mozzarella on my pizza,  
especially with the pepperoni.  
The bleu cheese is funky; the odor hits ya.  
Velveeta on chips and macaroni.

Chicken and ham need Swiss cheese to fuse.  
Swiss looks like it has been shot with a gun.  
Ricotta in lasagna we use.  
Noodles, sauce, and cheese, layered, not just one.

There are many cheeses to add to food.  
Some are good to eat, and some are just rude.

### **By Jacob LePere**

My cheese is the greatest cheese on Earth.  
It is amazing and spectacular.  
It has been that way since the cheese's birth.  
I've never seen cheese any awesomer.

It found out how to jump on trampolines.  
The other day, it jumped over thirty feet!  
And all of my neighbors have a few teens  
That all agree that it goes well with meat.

It then discovered how to clean floors.  
It seems to enjoy cleaning the kitchen,  
But it often winds up cleaning much more.  
And it often winds up in my room stitchin'.

But I once wound up eating the cheese, so  
Maybe next time I will make him of dough.





**By Rohan Misra**

If you were king of Cheese-topia,  
Would you make your throne of cheese,  
Or would it be a cornucopia?  
Well, I would make it out of cheese and peas.

Now, what about your crown, your majesty?  
There is Monterrey and mozzarella.  
Only Swiss would not be a travesty,  
But first you must talk with the crown fella.

If crowns be cheesy, string grows on mine.  
I have seen them all twisted, gold and white.  
When I look at my crown, I hear bells chime.  
The golden cheddar shines ever so bright!

So 'til I find another, it's my charm,  
For my yummy cheesy crowns do no harm.

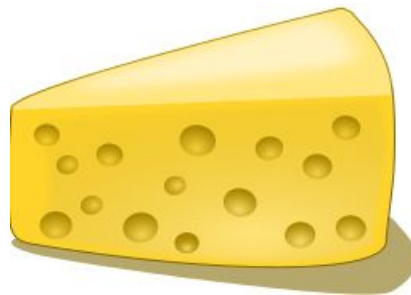
**By Ciara Napps**

If cheese has a king, it must be brie,  
Though some may aver it's the cheddar.  
Should it ever be left up to me,  
I'm afraid I could not tell you whether

I'd rather have cream with my grapes and nuts,  
Or the crumble of cheese that is harder.  
I think I'd prefer -- no ifs, ands, or buts --  
That you'd just keep them both in the larder.

It must be the mood that can oft make me brood,  
Wondering which of two is better.  
I don't mean to be rude, or even crude.  
I'm just gauging my tastes to the letter.

If the effort should make me feel hazy,  
I may just taste a great Bel Paese.





**By Jewel Salinas**

Cheddar cheese nachos, Gouda in a ball.  
Bleu, Muenster, Swiss, Gouda: These are all cheese.  
Some cheese really stinks; some don't smell at all.  
You use them in soup and cook them with peas.

Shredded, grated, in a wheel or a bar.  
Gouda and Muenster: They smell really bold.  
Put them in the fridge, the cheese will go far.  
Put them in the pantry, they will grow old.

My teacher, Mr. Chance, oh wonderful!,  
Assigned us to write poems about cheese.  
The true, the Gouda, and the beautiful.  
The book's name you read; read it, will you please?

Gouda, Muenster, Swiss: They are so yummy.  
Chew and swallow, then into my tummy.

**By Cassidy Schramm**

Parmesan looked up happily and said,  
“Our cheese tastes so good, your taste buds will buzz.  
We also taste good when sprinkled on bread.  
Just eat us quickly, or we'll mold with fuzz.”

Cheddar looked up, all cool, big, brave, and proud.  
“Parmesan tastes bad; they will never win.  
Cheddar is awesome, so say it out loud!  
Cheddar will win,” he said with a big grin.

Asiago looked up with a cheesy smile.  
“Asiago tastes awesome forever.  
I am tons better than those juvenile  
Other cheeses. They're bland. I taste better!”

Our contestants stand with amazing pride.  
Who wins, you ask? Well, I guess you decide!

