Balut is sold all over the Philippines and known to be an exotic delicacy. It is a great challenge for many foreigners and locals to eat Balut. Balut is most commonly sold at night by vendors riding their bicycles carrying the Balut in small baskets. It is said to be best eaten at night so one does not have to see the gruesome but delicious duck he is about to devour.

For those who don’t have the cast-iron stomach to eat the Balut, they can opt for a Penoy, which is a Balut minus the fertilized duck. Any trip to Cebu is not complete without trying Balut, as this would be considered a rare treat for tourists.

**VOCABULARY**
- fertilized
- exotic
- rare
- gruesome
- devour
- cast-iron stomach

**QUESTIONS**
1. Would you dare to eat this kind of food? Why or why not?
2. Do you have this kind of strange food in your country?
3. Do you think Balut is an interesting food?

**EXERCISE**
Use one of the words or phrases below to complete each of these sentences from the story.

fertilized   exotic   gruesome   devours   cast-iron stomach

1. Jason doesn’t have a ____________, he can’t eat that snake.
2. Thailand offers a lot of ________ street food.
3. The lion has not eaten for days, it __________ its prey quickly.
4. A hen lays _________ egg for a week if it has mated even once.
5. The movie exhibits a __________ and terrifying act of violence.
Larsian is an open-air market showcasing an array (or choices) of barbecue for barbecue enthusiasts. Most often customers are local patrons who come to enjoy delicious and affordable chicken and pork barbecue. It is easy to find as it is located in the city center easily accessible by taxi or by jeepney (a local transport within Cebu).

Once you enter, vendors will try to lure you to their stalls by offering excellent customer service and discounts. The distinct smell of flavorful barbecue will surely make you hungry. Spoons, forks or chopsticks are not readily available here because diners enjoy eating with bare hands. However, if you want to stay clean, plastic gloves are provided to use for free.

VOCABULARY

distinct
enthusiasts
patrons
lure
bare

QUESTIONS

1. Do you have this kind of place in your country?
2. Do you go to this kind of place when you eat out?
3. Do you like to eat barbecue? Why or why not?

EXERCISE

Use one of the words or phrases below to complete each of these sentences from the story.

Distinct enthusiasts patrons lure bare

1. The Aurora Borealis is a ___________ phenomenon common in the Northern Hemisphere.
2. ___________ often visits this busy ice cream shop.
3. The dress was too short, it showed her ___________ legs.
4. He is an ___________ for rap music.
5. Low prices ___________ shoppers.
Puso (hanging rice) is rice that is steamed and woven in coconut leaves. And because it is designed this way, it is easy to carry and a great convenience for travelers who have to eat on the road. To eat puso, all one has to do is cut the leaves open to expose the delicious rice and start eating away. Puso is available in restaurants that serve local dishes, likewise in street stalls that serve street foods. Puso is commonly eaten with deep fried chicken, spring rolls, barbeque and pork dumplings (siomai).

**VOCABULARY**

steamed  
wove  
tricky  
convenience  
expose

**QUESTIONS**

1. Describe your favorite food.  
2. What is the most unusual food you’ve ever eaten? Did it taste good or bad?  
3. Do you like finger foods?

**EXERCISE**

Use one of the words or phrases below to complete each of these sentences from the story.

steamed  
wove  
tricky  
convenience  
expose

1. The interview questions were ____________, she had difficulty answering them.  
2. Her friends encourage her to ____________ her secret.  
3. We bought freshly ____________ dumplings for breakfast.  
4. She ____________ cloth on her loom.  
5. She went to the ____________ store to buy some toiletries.
Jollibee is a Philippine multinational chain of fast-food restaurants headquartered in Pasig City, Philippines. Jollibee is McDonald’s competitor and greatest rival and is a great fast food alternative. This fast food restaurant is known for its fried chicken that is called “Chicken Joy” which is its trademark item. Jollibee’s also serves many other tasty dishes that have the unbeatable and traditional Filipino signature taste, which is a combination of spicy, salty and a little bit sweet and are sure to make you crave this food. This Filipino style restaurant is craved by young and old alike. Jollibee has many branches nationwide and it has also open branches across the globe. A notable event was the opening of a brand new branch in Canada.

**VOCABULARY**

- unbeatable
- rival
- notable
- trademark
- crave

**QUESTIONS**

1. What is the most famous fast-food restaurant in your country?
2. Do you like to eat in a fast-food restaurant?
3. What is your opinion of fast-food restaurants?

**EXERCISE**

Use one of the words or phrases below to complete each of these sentences from the story.

unbeatable      rival      notable      trademark      craves

1. The country’s national team is _________ in soccer.
2. Hayao Miyazaki is _________ for being a masterful storyteller and maker of anime feature films.
3. Samsung is Apple’s biggest and top _________.
4. Anna _________ for some chicken teriyaki.
5. Krispy Kreme is famous for its _________ honey-glazed doughnuts.
ROASTED PIG

: a roasted whole pig, or piglet seasoned in spices, cooked in charcoal

No celebration could be complete without serving the famous “lechon”. Serving “lechon” even signifies a family’s wealth showing status. Roasting the pig can be a very long and drawn out process and the wait agonizing but it delivers a delicious product in the end. Slaughtering, cleaning, stuffing herbs and spices into the pig and finally roasting for hours over hot coals is all part of the long process of preparing and cooking “lechon”. When the pig is ready it becomes a reddish and golden brown color showing the pig is ready and it produces a very tender meat. There are many lechon shops all over Cebu where you can pre-order or buy by kilograms for your next celebration. Lechon can be quite pricey but it’s worth every peso.

VOCABULARY

signifies
status
agonizing
slaughtering
tender

QUESTIONS

1. What national dishes from your country would you recommend to the world?
2. Do you think your country’s food is the best?
3. What kinds of international cuisine do you like?

EXERCISE

Use one of the words or phrases below to complete each of these sentences from the story.

Signifies status agonizing slaughtering tender

1. Raising the white flag ____________ peace.
2. Her relationship __________ is complicated.
3. The ________ beef was his favorite during the meal.
4. __________ of endagered animals should be stopped.
5. The long walk up the steep hill was very __________.