

The States Collection – New Mexico – Green Chilies Roasting on an Open Fire
By Claudia Haas
Email: claudiahaas12@gmail.com

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CAST: 3 (any gender)
Kris (20's) State Senator visiting a school
Gene (12) Inquisitive; good natured
Marty (13) Chatty; good natured

TIME: Autumn

PLACE: A middle school

SYNOPSIS: Every state has a flag, bird, song, etc. but New Mexico is poised to be the first state with an official "aroma."

MARTY

I don't think I ever met an official person before. This is so awesome that you came here.

GENE

Do you really work at the capital and do laws and all that stuff?

KRIS

I do.

GENE

Do you have to know a lot of stuff to get a job like that?

KRIS

It helps to have an education. I am curious as to how much you know about your state.

GENE

Are you going to test us?

KRIS

That's not my job.

MARTY

Phew. Because we get tested a lot and sometimes it's nice to just come to school and not worry.

KRIS

How about I just give you some answers? Did you know that your state bird is the roadrunner?

GENE

Everyone knows that. Do *you* know the famous question in restaurants?

KRIS

Red or green? And what's the answer?

GENE

Christmas! Both red and green! But I like the smell of the green chilies the best.

MARTY

I know when my grandma is roasting chilies from a mile away. The smell goes right to my house and I just follow it to her home!

GENE

It's the best smell in the world. Better than cookies! And it's roasting chili season!

MARTY

My grandma's roasted chilies are the best.

GENE

No! My grandma makes the best ones!

KRIS

Everyone's grandmas or mothers or grandpas make the best ones.

MARTY

That's pretty clever how you try and make everyone feel good.

KRIS

It's how I got elected. You are giving me an idea. Maybe I should go to town and pick up some chilies and we can roast them in the cafeteria.

MARTY

Then everyone would love to come to school!

GENE

It's too bad every state doesn't have a month where the air smells like roasted chilies.

KRIS

Which gives me an idea. You know how we have the state bird/

MARTY

/We already went through that.

KRIS

Right. Well, how about a “state aroma?” Just like we have our own flag ... and – ahem – bird – we could be the only state to have it’s own aroma and it would be –

MARTY and GENE

Roasted chilies!

END OF PLAY

(And there is currently a bill in the New Mexico State Legislature suggesting exactly that. And it has bi-partisan support. Good luck, New Mexico!)