

“How to Make Spring Rolls” by Cindy Ha, Carol Stream

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Spring rolls, summer rolls
No matter the weather
My family huddles together
Our table overflowing
Our eyes wandering
Our hands busy

There is a process to this art
A step by step to this roll
You must start with rice paper, dipped in
Cold water
It teaches patience
For you may be bitter and brittle
In need of much care
But with some time
You'll be flexible too

Then you choose your meat
A pork belly here
Or a shrimp there
For life is only fulfilling
When you are
Full

Next place the noodles
Bouncy, springy
Resilient
Just like you

Of course, you need vegetables
A little crunch to your life
A slice of cucumber
A sprig of mint
All to nourish you before you wilt

Tuck in the sides and roll
Dip into your special sauce
Of just peanut butter and hoisin
A little salty to complement your tears
And a little nutty for the crazy

Here you have it,
Your own gỏi cuốn

Enjoy.

*gỏi cuốn = Vietnamese spring roll