

Valentine's Day Activities




Foundation Phase

Grade R

- a. Each learner cuts out a heart shape. Paints the heart red or pink. Teach the learners about the name of the shape and focus on the colours: red, pink and white. Learners can then stick the poem below in their heart to make a card for mom and/or dad.

On Valentine's Day, we think about
The people who are dear,
How much they add to life's delight
Whenever they are near.

- b.  Make a Valentine's Day love worm.
Children must cut out heart shapes in two different colours. They must then stick each heart, overlapping slightly to make the body of the love worm. On the heart shape used for the head, the children can draw a face and the draw or use pipe cleaners to make the antennae.
- c. Complete the picture puzzle.
- d. Threading hearts. This activity can be used to teach bigger and smaller. Cut out various sized heart shapes. Using a piece of wool and a blunt needle, thread the wool through the middle of each heart shape beginning with the biggest heart shape and ending with the smallest heart shape. Space the hearts on the piece of wool to make a hanging mobile. These can be hung up in the classroom.
- e. Paper folding activities: See www.wikihow.com to find out how to complete different paper folding activities. There are step-by-step instructions as well as video instructions.
- f. Have a discussion ring on the importance of having friends and how to be a good friend.
- g. Read a fairy tale such as the Frog Prince, the Princess and the Pea or Beauty and the Beast.

Grade 1 – 3

- a. Shared writing: Read the children the following poem:

Valentine's Day Reminds Me
Valentine's Day reminds me
of the smile I smile
every time I think of you,
the emotional lift I feel
at the sound of your name.
Valentine's Day reminds me
of the strength and comfort I get
from knowing
there are people like you in my life.
Everything good about Valentine's Day
reminds me of you.
Happy Valentine's Day!
By Joanna Fuchs

Ask the class to brainstorm 'what Valentine's Day reminds' them of. Write these on the board. Once the children have given their ideas create a class poem beginning with the line, "Valentine's Day reminds me of.....". The teacher must be the scribe. Children then read the poem together.

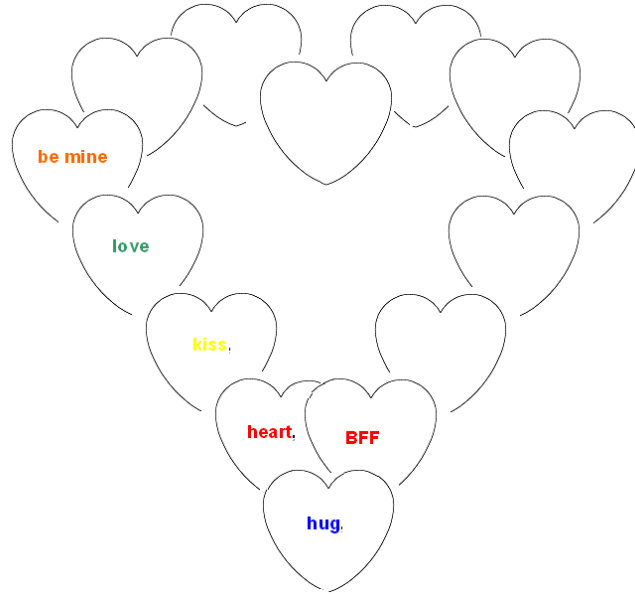
- b. Making of Valentine's Day cards.
- c. Read the story of the Frog Prince. (A copy of the story can be found under the Valentine's Day list of activities). Discuss the moral of the story. Also include present day manners and etiquette like 'keeping your word'. There is a comprehension worksheet on the Valentine's Day list of activities.
- d. Writing their own poem
Use the poem frame given below. Teach the learners the poem until they are able to say the poem without looking at the words. Explain that this poem was written by someone we do not know. Teach the learners what anonymous means. On Valentine's Day people often receive gifts, cards, flowers, etc from people anonymously.

Roses are red
Violets are blue
Sugar is sweet
And so are you

Ask the learners to think of a person in the class or a family member or friend. Give them the frame of poem and they can then create their own poem. Remind them that lines 2 and 4 must rhyme or '**sound the same**'.

_____ are _____
_____ are _____
_____ is _____
And _____

- e. Give each child a cardboard heart. Brainstorm words which depict activities that happen on Valentine's day – can also focus on the important things we do as friends. E.g. **love**, **heart**, **hug**, **kiss**, **be mine**, **BFF**, **special**, etc. Give the children a word to write and decorate on their heart. Create a big heart with all the small hearts completed by the children on your notice board.



Intersen Phase

- a. Making of Valentine's Day cards.
- b. Writing a free verse poem. This poem is created or written for a specific person to tell them how much they are loved. This poem uses similes "like". Read the poem below to the class. Discuss the poem, specifically what similes the writer is using, e.g. like a rainbow, like a glowing green spring, like a good book. Explain how to use a simile and then how to explain the simile/thought further, e.g. like a rainbow glistening through the rain. Children can write their own poem using similes and carrying the thought through into the next sentence. You could also use this poem as a template for children who struggle to write on their own. Leave out the words or phrases underlined and let the children fill in their own ideas.

Top of the List

On Valentine's Day,
when I think of the people
I care about and value,
you are at the top of the list.
Like a rainbow
glistening through the rain,
like a glowing green spring
after a cold gray winter,
you are a joy and a delight.
Like a good book, a cozy fire,
or a cup of cocoa (with marshmallows),
you are a comfort to me.
I appreciate you.
Happy Valentine's Day!

By Joanna Fuchs

- c. Teach the children about the correct friendly letter format. Learners write a short letter to their parents explaining how much they appreciate them. This can be placed in a decorated envelope. Teach the learners how to address an envelope.
- d. Create a post box in your classroom. Give each child in the class the name of someone else in the class. They must keep this a secret. Each child must then write 2/3 good or positive things about their 'secret' friend. Post these in the post box. The teacher can then deliver the letters to each child.
- e. Younger children often feel left out on Valentine's Day because the emphasis is on telling a boyfriend or girlfriend how much they are loved. Change the emphasis of the day by making the 14th February "You are Special Day" and focusing on friendship and the importance of having friends. Discuss how to treat friends – the good and bad things that we do. An activity that learners can do is to work in a friendship group and make a friendship poster.
- f. Various worksheets supplied on the website www.educationstation.co.za