

# Be My Valentine

Rt/E3.7: scan text to locate information

Rt/E3.1 (L1.1): trace and understand the main events of chronological, continuous descriptive, explanatory (and persuasive texts) of more than one paragraph

Rt/E3.2: recognize the different purposes of text

Rw/L1.2: recognize and understand the vocabulary associated with particular types of text, using appropriate strategies to work out meaning

Wt/E3.1, L1.1, L2.1: plan and draft writing

Wt/L1.3 L2.3: present information and ideas in a logical sequence using paragraphs where appropriate

SLc/L1.1: Speak clearly in a way which suits the situation

## Strategy for delivery

**Engage learners in discussion. What happens on February 14<sup>th</sup>? Why is it a special day? How do you celebrate it? Do you have any funny stories to relate about Valentine's Day?**

**Give out page one and read with students. Some explanations may be necessary. Check meanings of words. Be careful to point out the use of the idiom. Some previous knowledge of basic English is presumed. Point out that there are different types of text – prose/poetry. Remind learners of importance of audience and purpose when writing text.**

**Move on to the poem. Read out to the learners. They will not be enthusiastic but do not draw attention to this. Have a small discussion about content etc and then encourage learners to read as dialogue.**

**At this point you could try writing a poem together based on a dialogue. This will depend on the group.**

**Give out the final sheet for the more able to work on. Some learners can be busy writing a poem or a simple dialogue which they could then act out. The possibilities are endless. Above all any material produced should be shared at the end of the session.**

**Have fun!**

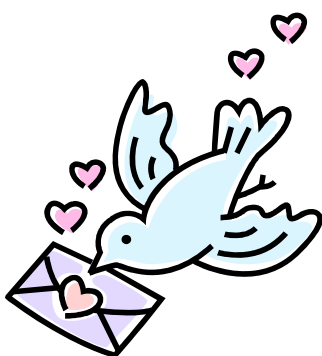


February 14<sup>th</sup> is a very important day in most people's calendars. It is the day when true love is pronounced either openly or in secret. In the old days young men and women would draw names from a bowl to see who their Valentine would be. The expression 'To wear your heart on your sleeve' meaning it is easy for other people to know how you are feeling dates back to that time as the names pulled out of the bowl would be worn on their sleeves for a week.

But who was Valentine? There seem to have been two different Valentines in the 4<sup>th</sup> century. One was a priest and one was a bishop. Neither of them had any connection with love and romance.

Many Valentine superstitions revolve around birds. Seeing a robin flying overhead meant a woman would marry a sailor: seeing a sparrow she would marry a poor man and be very happy: seeing a goldfinch she would marry a millionaire. Apparently many birds are believed to start mating on February 14<sup>th</sup>.

Nevertheless, lovers through the ages have taken this day as their own. They give flowers to each other and send each other secret messages of love. One such secret is discussed in the poem below.



## Valentine

"How many did you get?" "Six, what about you?"

"Oh yeh, me too."

"One of mine had hearts on and fluffy teddy bears and lots of kisses"

"Wow. That's cool."

"I don't recognise the writing – it was in this like purple pen!

Really very unusual. Never seen one again!"

"Oh yeh, that's cool. \_\_\_\_\_ Wanna come out with me tonight?"

"Sorry Dan! I'm too excited. Gotta find out who loves me –

You know, make some calls"

"Hey Dan – what's that? In your pocket?"

"Oh nothing – just my purple pen."



## Answer the following questions on the poem

1. The poet has used some abbreviated forms in the poem.  
Here they are

‘wanna’ ‘yeh’ ‘gotta’

In your groups discuss what these words would mean in more correct English. Why do you think the poet chose to use the abbreviated forms? Remember to think about audience and style.

2. Some of the words at the end of the lines rhyme – they sound the same. Discuss these in your group and highlight them. How effective are the rhymes?
3. Read the poem again. Explain to another person in your group what the poem is about.
4. Now write the story of the poem. You will need to make a plan of the writing. Ask your tutor to show you a suitable way of doing this. You could finish the story by explaining what happens next.

Good Luck and

