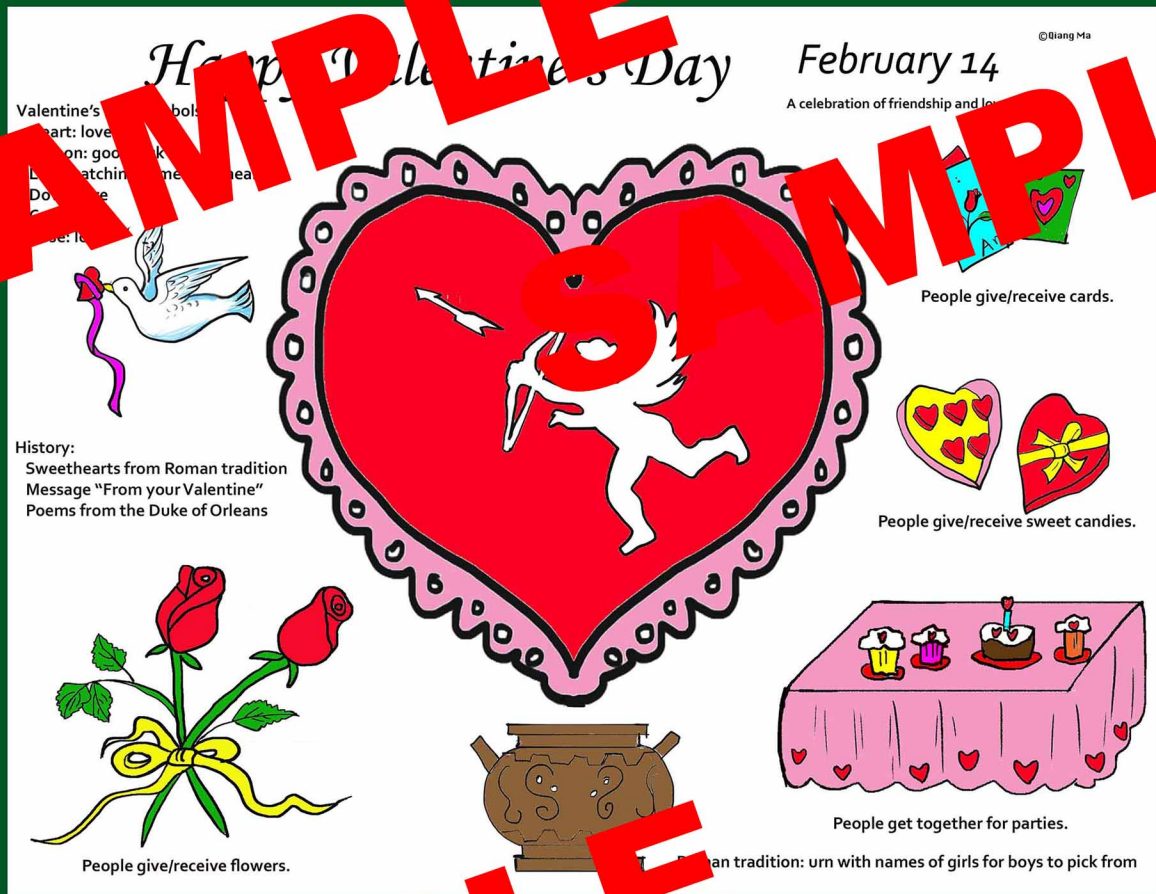


# Close Reading

Plus Writing Activities

Valentine's Day Is... By Gail Gibbons



Teaching World Holidays through

Reading, Comprehension, Vocabulary,  
Posters, and Reflection

Qiang Ma



# Happy Valentine's Day

February 14

©Giang Ma

## Valentine's Day Symbols:

Heart: love  
Ribbon: good luck  
Lace: catching someone's heart  
Dove: love  
Cupid: love  
Rose: love



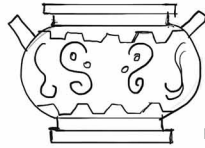
People give/receive cards.

## History:

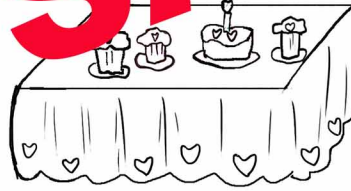
Sweethearts from Roman tradition  
Message "From your Valentine"  
Poems from the Duke of Orleans



People give/receive flowers.



Roman tradition: urn with names of girls for boys to pick from



People get together for parties.



People give/receive sweethearts.



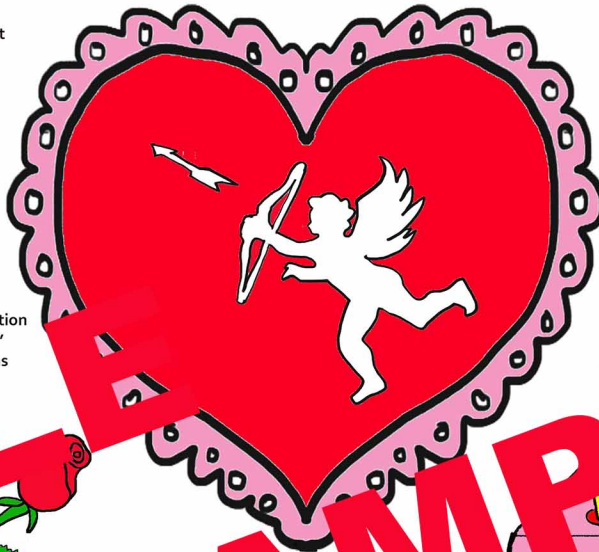
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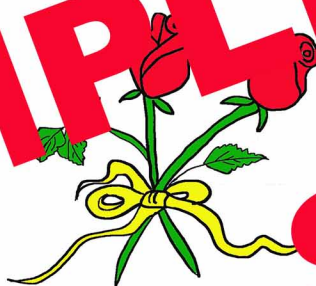
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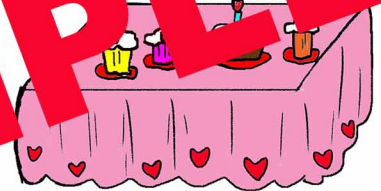
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## Valentine's Day Is... Close Reading Org

Title: \_\_\_\_\_

### Things to remember

#### Colors to mark the passage:

- Highlight the title in yellow.
- Underline topic sentence in green.
- Circle the important words about Valentine's Day in red.
- Use close reading symbols throughout text.

#### CLOSE reading symbols:

- Check Mark (✓) – understands story
- Star (\*) – something is important
- Exclamation mark (!) – something new, something that is surprising
- Question mark (?) – unsure, don't understand it

The main idea of these passages is to \_\_\_\_\_

What have you learned about Valentine's Day?

## Valentine's Day Is... Close Reading Organizer

Title: Valentine's Day Is...

### Things to remember

#### Colors to mark the passage:

- Highlight the title in yellow.
- Underline topic sentence in green.
- Circle the important words about Valentine's Day in red.
- Use close reading symbols throughout text.

The main idea of these passages is to explain the history and symbols of Valentine's Day and the activities people do on Valentine's Day.

What have you learned about Valentine's Day?

I learned that Valentine's Day is celebrated not only for love, but also for friendship.

## Valentine's Day Is... (1)

Valentine's Day is a celebration of friendship and love. It is celebrated on February 14. This special day grew out of old beliefs and customs.

Valentine's Day is about Roman tradition. In the 3rd century, the emperor celebrated the beginning of spring with a festival. Boys and girls chose their friends from an urn to find their partners for the event. They chose became their sweethearts. Doves were a symbol of love.

Valentine's Day is about Saint Valentine. About 1,500 years ago a kind man named Valentine was put in prison for helping friends with his jail guard, who had a blind daughter. He gave the guard a message to bring to the daughter. The daughter opened the message, she could see! The message read, "From your Valentine." Valentine died on February 14.

Valentine's Day is about cupid. Cupid was the god of love. People thought that when Cupid shot one of his special arrows, the person fell in love. This is why he is a symbol of love.

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Valentine's Day is about cupid. It is believed that about six hundred years ago a French nobleman, the duke of Orleans, was the first person to make valentines. While he was in prison, he wrote many love poems to his wife. Some poems mentioned Saint Valentine, who by then had become the patron saint of love.

✓ ☆ ! ?

## Text Dependent Questions (1)

What does Valentine's Day celebrate?	
Which day of the year is Valentine's Day?	
Name at least two old beliefs that Valentine's Day grew out of.	
Where did the phrase "From your Valentine" originate?	

## Text Dependent Questions (1)

What does Valentine's Day celebrate?	Valentine's Day celebrates friendship and love.
Which day of the year is Valentine's Day?	Valentine's Day is on February 14 <sup>th</sup> .
Name at least two old beliefs that Valentine's Day grew out of.	1. Roman tradition: chose friends from an urn to find their partners for the event. 2. Saint Valentine: wrote a message to a blind girl. 3. A French nobleman, the Duke of Orleans: the first person to make valentines.
Where did the phrase "From your Valentine" originate?	"From your Valentine" originated in the message written by Saint Valentine to a blind girl, daughter of a jail guard while he was in jail.

## Valentine's Day Is... (2)

Valentine's Day has many symbols. They are also used as love symbols since ancient times. A red heart is the most popular valentine symbol. A heart is a symbol of giving the most important part of yourself to someone. The symbol of ribbons comes from knights competed in tournaments, their sweethearts often gave them a ribbon to wear. This word means "to snare or net," as in the Latin word laqueus. This word means "to snare or net," as in the Latin word laqueus.

Valentine's Day is about cupid. Cupid was the god of love. People thought that when Cupid shot one of his special arrows, the person fell in love. This is why he is a symbol of love.

Valentine's Day is about parties, treats and games. People give valentines to friends and loved ones. There are lots of goodies to eat.

Valentine's Day is a day of giving and saying "I LOVE YOU"

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## Text Dependent Questions (2)

Valentine's Day has many symbols. Please explain the meaning of the following symbols: hearts, ribbons, laces, cupid, red roses, and candies.	
Describe some different kinds of valentine cards.	
Who do people give valentine cards to?	
List at least two activities people do to celebrate Valentine's Day.	

## Text Dependent Questions (2)

Valentine's Day has many symbols. Please explain the meaning of the following symbols: hearts, ribbons, laces, cupid, red roses, and candies.	Valentine's Day has many symbols: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Hearts: love</li><li>Ribbons: good luck</li><li>Laces: "to snare or net", as in catching someone's heart</li><li>Cupid: love</li><li>Red roses: flower of love</li><li>Candies: sweet</li></ul>
Describe some different kinds of valentine cards.	There are many different kinds of valentine cards: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Can be fancy and have love poems or sayings in them.</li><li>Can make you feel silly or happy when you open them.</li><li>Can have pictures of hearts, cupid, or other symbols.</li><li>Can have voices that say "Be my valentine" when the cards are opened.</li><li>Can be heart shaped and have messages on them.</li></ul>
Who do people give valentine cards to?	People give valentine cards to friends and loved ones.
List at least two activities people do to celebrate Valentine's Day.	To celebrate Valentine's Day, people have many fun activities: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Give/receive valentine cards</li><li>Give/receive red roses and sweet candies</li><li>Get together for parties, treats, and games</li><li>Saying "I LOVE YOU!"</li></ul>

## Vocabulary

urn	A large vase, a large pot
message	A note, a letter
mention	Say, indicate, refer to
symbol	A sign, image to represent something
snare	A trap for catching birds or animals

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## Getting Started: Valentine's Day Close Reading

1. Get students to have the following items ready.

Items Needed	Teacher	Students
The Book Valentine's Day Is... by Gail Gibbons	V	
Lesson Plan	V	
Vocab Poster	V * Teacher can blow the original black and white sample into a poster.	
Info Organizer	V	V
Blank Paper for Drawing on Day 1	V	V
2 Reading Passages	V	V
2 Text Dependent Questions Sets	V	V
Vocabulary	V	V
2 Valentine's Day Black Line Drawings (with/without labels)	V	
2 Valentine's Day Color Drawings (with/without labels)	* Teacher can blow the original black and white sample into a poster and color it.	* Students can create a poster by coloring the teacher's sample. It is a great house project.
Teacher's Finished Sample Package: Valentine's Day Color Drawing with labels <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Vocab Poster with Post-it</li> <li>1 Info Organizer completed</li> <li>2 Reading Passage with marks</li> <li>2 Text Dependent Questions Sets with answers</li> <li>1 Vocab Sheet with answers</li> <li>2 Student Individual Sample Writings</li> </ul>	* The teacher types a sample for you to use easily. In real time, you are going to hand write to model for your students.	
Sharpie, Crayon/Markers	V	V
Post-It	*	

V: must, \*: optional

- Read the lesson plan.
- Look at the finished sample works included.
- Photocopy 7 page package (1 Empty page, 1 Info Organizer, 2 Reading Passages, 2 Text Dependent Questions Sets, and 1 Vocabulary Sheet) for students. Make an extra set for the teacher to use.
- The lesson is designed to cross curriculum among ELA, Social Science/World History, Valentine's Day, and Fine Arts using close reading and student writing.

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# Credits

I draw all the clipart myself for all the products in my store.

Thank you so much and I hope you enjoy this lesson.

