

The First Valentine (in simple English)

A long time ago in a place called Rome, it was against the law to believe in Jesus. In Rome, everyone had to bow down to the Roman emperor and say he was the greatest man and that he was a god! The people even had pray to the Roman emperor! The law said that no one could say anyone was greater than the emperor.

But the Christians said that Jesus was much greater than the emperor. They believed that Jesus was the greatest man who ever lived. They believed that he was the greatest God, too!

The people of Rome thought that Christians' beliefs were strange. They also thought that Christians were bad people. So every time something bad happened in Rome, the Romans said that the Christians had done the bad thing.

A kind man named Valentine believed in Jesus. He would not bow down to the Roman emperor. He would not pray to him. He was a Christian priest.

Valentine also said that one of the emperor's laws was very wrong. Because the emperor believed that unmarried men were better soldiers than married men, he had said that young men in the Roman army could not get married. So Valentine helped young soldiers who wanted to marry. He did secret weddings for them.

The emperor got very angry at Valentine. He told the Roman soldiers to beat Valentine. Valentine did not fight back. Valentine said, "Jesus did not fight back when soldiers beat him and put him on a cross, so I will not fight back." The soldiers put Valentine in jail.

A man named Asterius (ah STAIR ee us) worked in the jail. He had to make sure that no one ran away from the jail. Asterius believed the Roman emperor was a god and bowed down to him.

But every day, Valentine told Asterius stories about Jesus. Valentine sang happy songs about Jesus. He prayed out loud to Jesus, saying he loved Jesus! He said Jesus loved everyone and Jesus could make sick people well. Jesus could make deaf people hear. He could make lame people walk. He could make blind people see!

Asterius had a little girl. His little girl could not see. One day, Asterius told Valentine, "If your Jesus can make my little girl see, I will believe in him. I will bow down and pray to him. I will sing happy songs to him like you do."

So Valentine prayed. "Dear Lord Jesus," he said, "My good friend Asterius wants his little girl to see. Please make her see. Thank you, dear Lord."

And what do you think happened?

After Valentine prayed, the little girl could see! Asterius was so happy that he and all of his family believed in Jesus! They became Christians, even though it was against the Roman law.

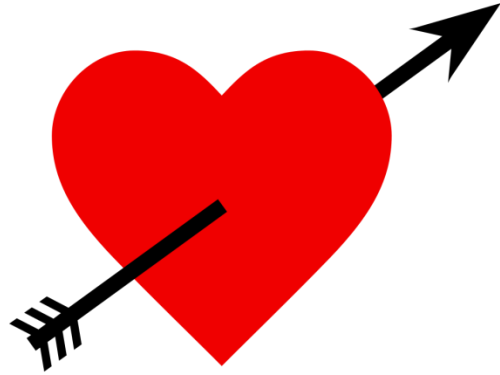
Later, the Roman emperor wanted to get rid of all the Christians. Many Christians left Rome to tell people far away about Jesus. But some stayed in Rome and kept telling others about Jesus. The emperor said these Christians must die. He put many into cages with hungry lions, who killed the Christians. The emperor sent Valentine to the lions, too. Before Valentine went into the lions' cage, he wrote a letter to Asterius and his family. The letter said, "Be strong and brave. Jesus will take care of you. He loves you. I love you, too. Your Valentine"

And that is the story of the first Valentine.

Valentine's Day Today. Today on February 14, many people send each other beautiful cards that say, "I love you. Be my valentine." And because love is good and sweet, people also give each other sweets and candy on Valentine's Day.

But most people do not know how this special day began. They do not know it is because there was a *man* named Valentine, who was not afraid to tell others that Jesus loves them and that Jesus is much stronger than the Roman king. They do not know that Valentine died rather than say the Roman king was better than Jesus!

If Valentine were alive today, he would tell you that Jesus loves you! It's true! Jesus *does* love you!



- One Valentine symbol is Cupid and/or his bow and arrow. Do you know who he is or why he is he a symbol of love?
- Do you believe there is (only) one perfect “soul mate” for everyone and your job is to find that person? Do you have a husband, wife, boyfriend, or girlfriend? If yes, how did you meet? What made you want to stay together?
- If you don’t have a boyfriend/girlfriend, are you looking for someone? If so what should that person be like?
- A famous line from a movie called “Love Story” says, “Love means never having to say you’re sorry.” Do you agree? Why or why not?
- Here are some other common sayings about love. Do you agree with (any of) them? Can you give an example?

Love is blind.

Love conquers all. (Omnia Vincit Amor)

Love is all you need.

Love makes the world go around.

'Tis better to have loved and lost, than never to have loved at all.



1. I can be _____ when I'm with you.
2. Your idea of romance is _____ lights, soft music, and just the two of us.
3. Because you make me _____ like I've never felt before.
4. I can _____ you anything, and you won't be shocked.
5. Your _____ faith is what keeps the flame of love alive.
6. We can make beautiful _____ together.
7. We're a perfect _____.
8. _____ of you fills me with a wonderful feeling.
9. Your love gives me the _____ that the best is still ahead.
10. You never give up on me, and that's what _____ me going.
11. You are simply _____.
12. I _____ you because you bring out the best in me.
13. You have a terrific sense of _____.
14. Every time I look at you, my heart misses a _____.
15. You're the one who holds the _____ to my heart.
16. You always _____ what I need to hear. (You are perfect.)
17. You have taught me the _____ meaning of love.
18. Love is what you mean to me - and you mean _____.
19. You are my theme for a _____.
20. I've had the time of my life and I _____ it all to you.
21. And, of course, your intelligence, because you were _____ enough to fall in love with me ;-)

beat dim dream everything feel feeling great humor irresistible keeps
key love match music myself owe real say smart tell thinking

1. myself
2. dim
3. feel
4. tell
5. great
6. music
7. match
8. thinking
9. feeling
10. keeps
11. irresistible
12. love
13. humor
14. beat
15. key
16. say
17. real
18. everything
19. dream
20. owe
21. smart

The Game of Hearts

SUITS:



hearts



spades



diamonds



clubs

Vocabulary:

1. Hearts is played with 3 to 5 **players**.
2. The **dealer** will **shuffle** and then **deal** all the cards.
3. The game is played in **clockwise** order.
4. You **go** when **it's your turn**. That means you put down a card.
4. Players must follow the **suit** that is led. That means if the first person put down a **club**, you must put down a **club**.
5. Whatever suit is put down first is **trump**. That means the high card of that **suit** takes the **trick**. The **trick** means that group of cards.
6. When **it's your turn**, you must play the suit that is **trump** unless you don't have a card of that **suit**.
7. You cannot lead a **trick** with a heart until **hearts are broken**. Hearts are broken when someone did not have the **suit** that was **trump** and instead put down a heart.
8. In this game, 2 is the lowest card and **Ace** is the highest card. **Jack** is higher than 10 and **Queen** is higher than **Jack** and **King** is higher than **Queen**.
9. A **hand** means all the cards you have in your hand. Next hand means the next time the cards are shuffled and you get a group of cards.

The Game of Hearts

1. You want to give away all your hearts and the Queen of Spades.
(OR: You want to keep ALL the hearts and the Queen of Spades, but that is *very* difficult.)
2. Points are bad. You don't want points.
3. Each heart is 1 point. The Queen of Spades is 13 points.
4. If you take all the hearts and the Queen of Spades, you give all the other players 26 points. You get zero.
5. The game is finished, when one player gets 100 points. The player with the lowest points is the winner.

How to Play:

1. First, deal all the cards.
2. Then, each player gives the next player 3 bad cards. (First hand, give to the player on your left. Next hand, give to the player on your right. Next hand, give to the player across from you. Next hand, keep all your cards.)
2. Then the player who has the 2 of clubs starts.
3. Everyone will play a club. The highest club takes all the cards.
4. If you do not have clubs, you can play any suit.
5. The player who took the cards (the trick), starts next. She can play any card, but not a heart if no hearts were played before.

Remember:

1. It is not just the highest card that takes the cards, it is the highest card of the suit that was started (the trump suit).
2. If you are not the last player, be careful about putting down a high card! Maybe you will have to take a heart or the Queen of Spades!

The Game of Hearts

True or False Questions:

1. After the cards are all dealt and you look at your hand, pass your 3 worst cards to the player on your right.
2. The first card that is played in the game is the 2 of clubs.
3. You must always play a card of the suit that was started in each trick, if you have one.
4. If you do not have a card from the suit that was started, you must pass.
5. After you play, the player to your left plays next.
6. Ace is the lowest card.
7. The highest card always takes the trick.
8. If you take a heart, you get zero points.
9. The Queen of Spades is 13 points.
10. If you take all the hearts and the Queen of Spades, you get 26 points.
11. Always play the highest card you have of the trump suit, so you get the trick.
12. The first player to get 100 points is the winner.

Matters of the Heart

Idiom	Meaning	Idiom	Meaning
Be soft-hearted or tender-hearted		Get to the heart of the matter	
Be hard-hearted or cold-hearted		Wear your heart on your sleeve	
His heart's in the right place!		My heart stopped when...	
Have a heart of gold.		Have the key to someone's heart	
Break someone's heart Be broken-hearted		Have your heart set on something	
Eat your heart out (for someone)		Follow your heart	
Put your heart and soul into something		Love someone with all your heart	
Make a half-hearted attempt at something		From the bottom of my heart	
Take something to heart		Have a heart!	
Cross my heart!		You're all heart!	

Love Languages:

1. Gifts	e.g. Flowers
2. Service	e.g. Cooking food
3. Time	e.g. Listening
4. Touch	e.g. A hug
5. Words	e.g. Saying, "I love you."

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	A Valentine's card		Going to a hockey game
	A love poem		Hanging around together
	A note in the lunchbox		Being intimate
	A well-planned event or date		Giving jewelry
	Baby-sitting		Kissing
	A box of chocolates		Phoning
	Doing the dishes		Taking out the garbage
	Giving a massage		Watching a "chick flick" or action film
	Giving a ride		Working on a project you both care about

Love

What is the first thing you think of when you hear the word, “love”?

If you scan the Internet for the word “love” what do you get? Using Yahoo, at the top of the list was “Personals” – how to find that perfect person for you, romance, relationships etc.

Is love a feeling, an action, an attitude, a decision or something else? How would you define love? Give examples of love from your own personal experience.

We all perceive (recognize) and give love in different ways. Someone has defined 5 "love languages" as being: time together, words, touch, gifts and service. In which of these ways do you prefer to receive love? give love?

What is it like to love? Does it feel good all the time? Does it sometimes feel bad or sad to love someone? Give examples of love that makes you sad and love that makes you happy. What advice would you give to a newly married couple? What advice would you give to someone who had a broken heart?

What do you think about crushes? Is it love or something else? If it's not love, what is it? What is the best response to a crush – when you have a crush on someone else and when someone else has a crush on you? Give examples from your own experience, or from advice that you've received.

Describe a very loving person that you know. Tell about their background. How did they learn to love? What do they do that shows they are loving?

What is your favorite love story that is about romance. What is your favorite love story that is NOT about romance.

How do you teach someone to love? Who were your teachers? Were they parents, school teachers, friends, a boy or girl-friend or others? How much of your idea about love was formed by things you've read or studied? How much of your idea about love was formed from people that you've known?

Here are 2 quotes from the Bible about love by the apostles John and Paul:

“We know what love is because Jesus Christ gave his life for us. So we should give our lives for our brothers and sisters. Suppose someone sees a brother or sister in need and is able to help them. If he doesn't take care of them, how can the love of God be in him? Dear children, don't just talk about love. Put your love into action.” 1 John 3:16-18

Love is patient, love is kind. Love is not jealous or boastful or proud or rude. Love does not demand its own way. Love is not easily angered, and it keeps no record of wrongs. Love is never glad about injustice but rejoices with the truth. Love never gives up, never loses faith, is always hopeful. Love endures through every circumstance. Love never fails.

1 Corinthians 13:4-8a