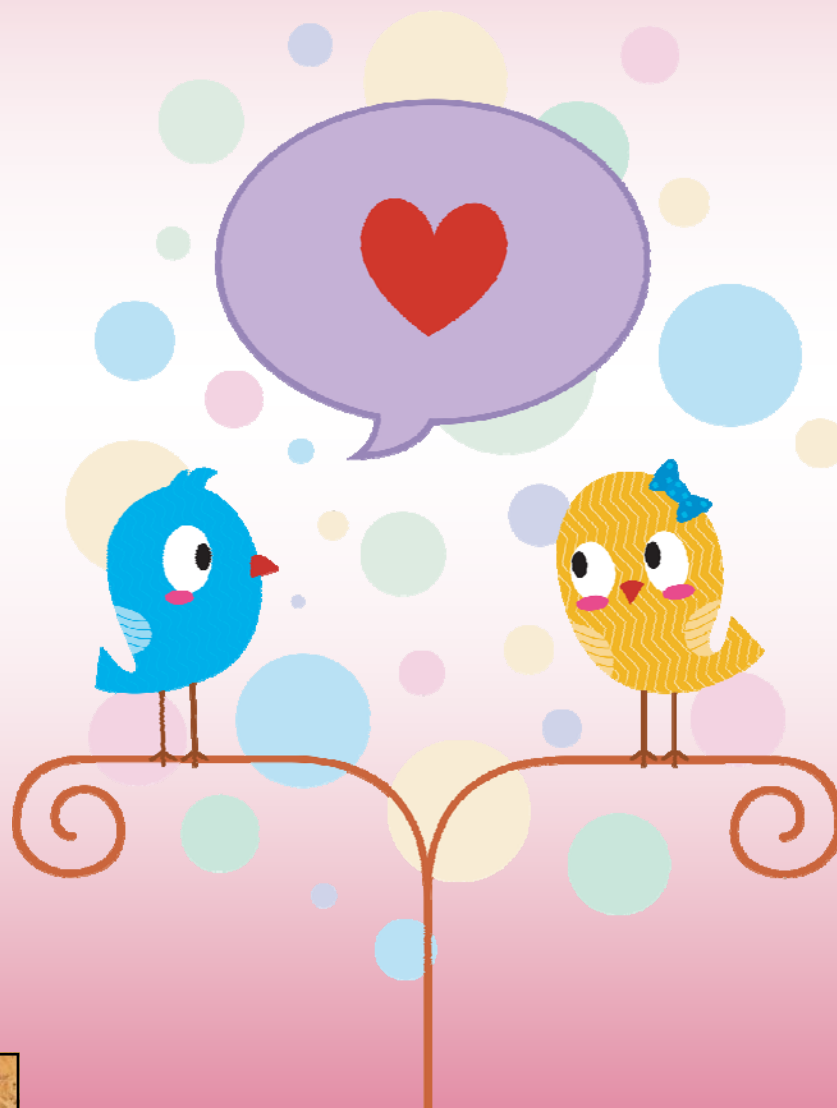


February Activities

from
Teaching Resources



Laura Candler
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February Activities



from

Teaching Resources

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In February we celebrate International Friendship Month, Valentine's Day, President's Day and Black History Month. You'll find directions and printables for the activities listed below. This is the only free Seasonal packet available; I'm offering it as a sample of my Lesson Mini Packs. I hope you enjoy them! If you do, be sure to check out my free virtual online file cabinet at Teaching Resources (www.lauracandler.com) and the other resources in my TeachersPayTeachers.com store!



Laura Candler

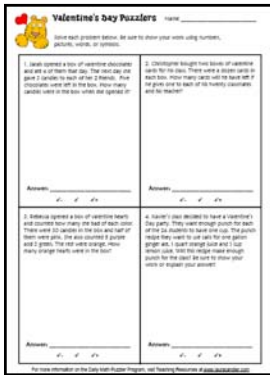
February Activities in this Packet

- Valentine Math Puzzlers
- Mix-Music-Math
- President Character Bio Report
- Black American Character Bio Report
- Valentine's Day Read N Roll
- Friendship Cinquains
- Heartfelt Thanks & Just Wanted to Say
- Valentine Candy Fractions
- Valentine's Day Word Challenge
- Valentine's Day Homework Pass
- Valentine Heart Patterns

Happy Valentine's Day!



Classroom Activities for February



Valentine's Day Math Puzzlers

The Valentine's Day Math Puzzler worksheet is a thematic math problem-solving page that provides a place for students to show their thinking. You can have students complete one problem per day or do them all in one sitting. It's great for cooperative problem solving sessions or pair work. Try the Music-Mix-Math activity on page 7 for a way to get kids up and moving to music while they solve problems. Each student will need his or her own worksheet, but they will be mixing around the room to find a partner after each problem. This printable is similar to the problem-solving pages in the Daily Math Puzzler series available at www.lauracandler.com.

Answers to Valentine Puzzlers: #1) 15 candies #2) 3 cards #3) 7 orange #4) No

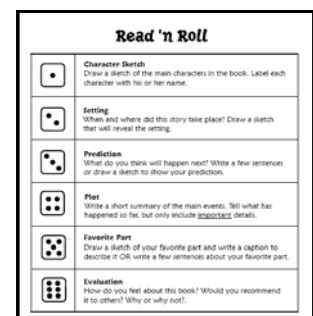
Character Bio Reports - Presidents and Black Americans

During the month of February, we honor our Presidents as well as famous Black Americans. Students can benefit from researching and writing about these famous historical figures, but the benefits are lost when students mindlessly copy notes and restate the facts in a report. Character Bio Reports require students to organize their report around three chosen character traits. They are asked to support each character trait with details from the famous person's life. Adding this requirement makes the assignment more rigorous because it requires students to think about what's really important in that person's life. Two report options are included in this packet, and three more are included in the Character Bio Report packet available at TeachersPayTeachers.com. You can also find full directions for teaching this activity, including graphic organizers and a scoring rubric.



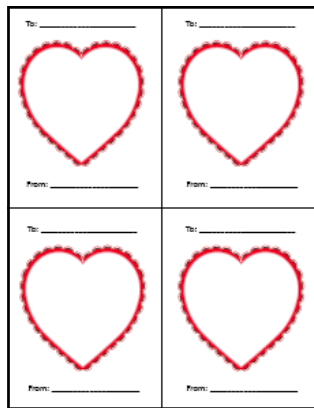
Valentine's Day Reading Marathon - Read 'n Roll Story Board

Valentine's Day is filled with excitement, but your classroom doesn't have to be chaotic all day! Start the day with a 2-hour Reading Marathon, an activity in which students choose their own books and read almost continuously for an extended period of time. You'll find teacher directions for a generic Reading Marathon in the packet, along with a Valentine's Day Read 'n Roll activity you can display on an overhead projector or whiteboard. Each student or team will need one die which they will roll after every 15 to 20 minutes of independent reading. What they record in the next block depends on what number they roll. Kids love this activity, and it keeps them quiet and engaged in their books on a day when they would normally be somewhat hyperactive. As a special treat, you can provide a Valentine's Day snack break in the middle of the activity.



Friendship Cinquains

Since February is International Friendship Month, it's a perfect time to write friendship poems. Cinquains are simple 5-line poems, and this activity will lead your students through the creation of a poem about a classmate. Randomly assign partners within your classroom and give each student a copy of the Friendship Cinquain interview page and the heart pattern. Students simply follow the directions to create the poem. Let them work with their partners to revise and edit their poems before copying them onto the pattern. Prior to this activity, you might pair up with another teacher and interview each other to create sample poems.



Heartfelt Thanks

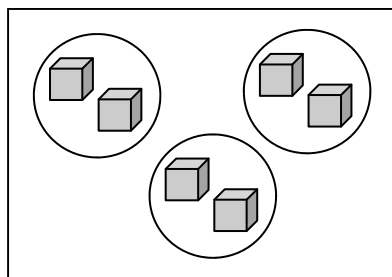
As a part of Friendship Month, you can foster a sense of gratitude and appreciation within your classroom by implementing the Heartfelt Thanks activity. Give each student a sheet of paper with the 4 heart notes. Display a copy of the Heartfelt Sparks Appreciation Sparks. Ask students to cut the notes apart on the dotted lines and think about why they are grateful for their classmates, teachers, or other important people in their lives. Then have them create a heart note for 4 different people. They can use the Heartfelt Thanks spark ideas to get them started. If you do this on Valentine's Day, students can deliver the notes with their other valentines. For older students who might not want to write notes on hearts, you can substitute the Just Wanted to Say activity which uses scrolls instead of hearts.

Daily Appreciation Variation - You can use this activity all year round by making the hearts or scrolls available to students at any time. Encourage them to write positive notes about each other and deposit them into a class drop box. Each day, draw out a few notes to read aloud, being mindful of the fact that some may be too personal to read. It's not necessary to read the name of the person who submitted the note - just read the name of the person who is being recognized and what they are being recognized for. To encourage participation, award a small treat for the person whose name is drawn out as well as the person who submitted the compliment.




Valentine Candy Fractions

If you've been studying fractions, this activity makes a good review. Several days before this lesson, ask parents to donate boxes of valentine heart candies. Before you distribute the boxes of candy, you might want to review fraction concepts using colored link cubes or other manipulatives. Review ways to find the fraction of a number. For example, if you have six cubes and you want to find one third of them, you can physically divide them into three groups. Students can draw circles



on an individual dry-erase board and either draw illustrations or place manipulatives inside the circles. In this way, they will see that $\frac{1}{3}$ of 6 equals 2, and $\frac{2}{3}$ of 6 equals 4. Eventually they may discover that to find the fraction of a whole number, you can divide by the denominator and multiply by the numerator. After this type of review, students should be able to handle the Valentine Candy Fractions activity either alone or with a partner. When they finish, let them create their own problems to present to their classmates.

Valentine Candy Fractions



1. What fraction of your candies are pink? white? purple?
2. Count out 8 candies. What number is $\frac{1}{4}$ of the 8 candies?
3. Count out 9 candies. What number is $\frac{1}{3}$ of the candies? What number is $\frac{2}{3}$ of them?
4. Count out a dozen candies. What number is $\frac{1}{4}$ of the candies? What number is $\frac{1}{3}$ of them? What number is $\frac{3}{4}$ of the candies?
5. What if you had 15 candies. You ate $\frac{1}{3}$ of them and gave 3 to a friend. How many of the candies were left?
6. Make up your own fraction problem!

Valentine's Day Word Challenge

Need a phonics activity for your literacy center? Word Challenges are always fun, but they also foster spelling and vocabulary development. You can have students complete this alone, but it's more fun with a partner. Have them cut out the letters of "Valentine's Day" and work with a buddy to find as many words as possible from those letters. Cutting out the letters in advance helps kids who have trouble visualizing the words and who need manipulatives.



Here are the rules I generally use:

- No proper nouns including names of people, places, things, etc.
- All words have to have at least 3 letters.
- You can use words and their plurals if you have enough letters. For example, you can use "year" and "years," but you can't use "saw" and "saws."
- Words must be spelled correctly.
- You can look up the spellings of words in the dictionary, but you can't use the dictionary to hunt for all kinds of bizarre words that you don't even know!

I generally set a timer and let the kids have about 20 minutes to hunt for words. Then I have them switch papers and check to make sure the other pair has followed all the rules. I sometimes award simple prizes for the pairs who have the most words correct or who have found the largest word. Even though this is a fun activity, it's actually great for improving spelling. It's amazing how many simple words kids misspell regularly, and this activity makes them more conscious of the spellings of basic words.

Valentine's Day Homework Pass

Drop these homework passes into your student's goodie bags to make their Valentine's Day special. If you haven't been using homework passes in your classroom, make sure your students know the rules in advance. In my classroom, a homework pass buys a student an extra day on an assignment, but they still have to complete the work. Sometimes a homework pass can be a lifesaver when students have a sports activity or family event one evening.



Heart Patterns

At the end of the packet, you'll find some generic heart patterns in two sizes. Use them for bulleting boards or activities of your own creation. If you think of something fun and educational to do with these patterns, please share them on my Teaching Resources Facebook page at <http://www.facebook.com/TeachingResources!> We'd love to hear your ideas!

More Time-Saving Resources to Explore!

For more time-saving Teaching Resources, visit www.lauracandler.com. You'll find a virtual filing cabinet with hundreds of free materials as well as ebooks and lessons you can purchase and download right away. You can also purchase these materials in my store on TeachersPayTeachers.com.



I love to hear from teachers, so I hope you'll connect with me on my Corkboard Connections blog (www.corkboardconnections.com) or my Teaching Resources Facebook page www.facebook.com/TeachingResources. You can ask questions, share ideas, and join the discussions. Love Pinterest? Follow me there, too! www.pinterest.com/lauracandler





Valentine's Day Puzzlers

Name _____

Solve each problem below. Be sure to show your work using numbers, pictures, words, or symbols.

1. Sarah opened a box of valentine chocolates and ate 4 of them that day. The next day she gave 3 candies to each of her 2 friends. Five chocolates were left in the box. How many candies were in the box when she opened it?

Answer: _____

✓- ✓ ✓+

2. Christopher bought two boxes of valentine cards for his class. There were a dozen cards in each box. How many cards will he have left if he gives one to each of his twenty classmates and his teacher?

Answer: _____

✓- ✓ ✓+

3. Rebecca opened a box of valentine hearts and counted how many she had of each color. There were 30 candies in the box and half of them were pink. She also counted 5 purple and 3 green. The rest were orange. How many orange hearts were in the box?

Answer: _____

✓- ✓ ✓+

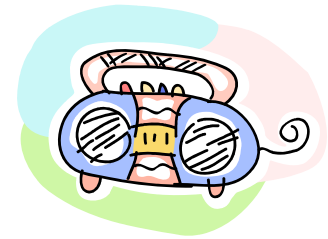
4. Xavier's class decided to have a Valentine's Day party. They want enough punch for each of the 24 students to have one cup. The punch recipe they want to use calls for one gallon ginger ale, 1 quart orange juice and 1 cup lemon juice. Will this recipe make enough punch for the class? Be sure to show your work or explain your answer!

Answer: _____

✓- ✓ ✓+

Music-Mix-Math

Cooperative Problem Solving



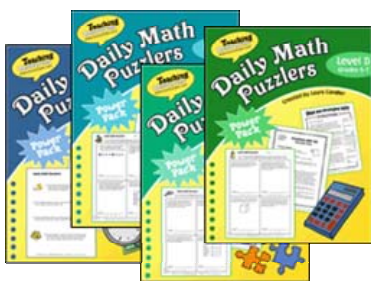
This activity allows students to work cooperatively with their classmates to solve math word problems. Students mix around the room as music is played. When the music stops, students solve problems with a partner.

Materials Needed:

- Kid-friendly music
- One word problem worksheet for each student

Directions:

1. Give each student an identical problem-solving worksheet with 3 or 4 problems. The **Daily Math Puzzler** activity pages work well for this. (Download samples from www.lauracandler.com)
2. Before starting, ask everyone to read the first problem and think about how they would solve it. However, they should NOT write anything on their pages at this point.
3. Begin playing the music, and have students move quietly around the room mingling with their classmates. They need to bring their worksheets and pencils with them. (Download kid-friendly music from www.freekidsmusic.com)
4. Stop the music and ask students to find a partner. Make sure everyone is paired up before giving the next direction. If you have an odd number of students, you can be someone's partner.
5. Ask students to discuss the first problem with their partner, decide how to solve it, and each write the solution on their own papers. They must show their work, which could include drawings, charts, or number sentences. Students who finish early may discuss the next problem but may not write anything on their papers.
6. Begin playing the music when most students are finished with Problem #1. When you stop the music this time, they need to find a different partner.
7. When everyone has a partner, ask them to compare their answers for Problem #1 before moving on to Problem #2. If their answers for Problem #1 are not correct, they should quickly discuss that one before solving the next problem. You'll need to monitor this step to make sure they don't spend too much time on Problem #1.
8. Repeat steps 3 through 7 until all the word problems are completed.
9. At the end of the activity, collect the papers to check for accuracy, or review the answers together as a class.



President Bio Report



During the month of February, we often honor our Presidents. This month you'll be researching one President and writing a short report. You'll choose one President, past or present, whom you admire. Then you'll research facts about his life experiences and accomplishments and use this information to write a short report organized around his character traits. Following the steps below will ensure a dynamite report!

Step 1: Select a President

Brainstorm a list of Presidents you admire. They may be living now or have lived long ago. You may have to do a little research before you can make your selection. Then choose one President as the focus of your paper.

Step 2: Research President

Research this President using a variety of resources. Continue your research until you have listed at least 8 to 10 accomplishments or important life experiences that demonstrate that person's character. You'll also need to record basic background information about that President.

Step 3: Select Character Traits

Think about the President's accomplishments and important life experiences. What traits describe this person? Refer to the Character Traits list and select three traits that are supported by your research.

Step 4: Organize Ideas

Organize your ideas before writing. Write your three character traits, and under each one record the details that support your selections.

Step 5: Write the Report

Write an essay using the information from your research. Start with an introduction followed by at least one paragraph on each of the three character traits you selected. Show that President demonstrates each character trait. Conclude with a paragraph that explains why you selected this President or a reflection on his accomplishments. Revise your first draft and write your final copy.

Important! This assignment is due _____. Be sure to turn in your graphic organizer along with your final paper.

Black American Bio Report



During the month of February, we honor Black Americans for their accomplishments and contributions. What character traits are demonstrated by these individuals who have had such a positive impact on others? To find out, you'll be researching a Black American and writing a short report in the form of a character analysis. You'll choose one Black American, past or present, whom you admire. Then you'll research facts about his or her life experiences and accomplishments. You'll use this information to write a short report organized around his or her character traits. Following the steps below will ensure a dynamite report!

Step 1: Select a Black American

Brainstorm a list of Black Americans you admire. They may be living now or have lived long ago. You may have to do a little research before you can make your selection. Then choose one person as the focus of your paper.

Step 2: Research and Record Facts

Research this person using a variety of resources. Begin by recording basic background information about your person. Continue your research until you have listed at least 8 to 10 accomplishments or important life experiences that demonstrate that person's character.

Step 3: Select Character Traits

Think about the person's accomplishments and important life experiences. What traits describe this person? Refer to the Character Traits list and select three traits that are supported by your research.

Step 4: Organize Ideas

Organize your ideas before writing. Write your three character traits, and under each one record the details that support your selections.

Step 5: Write the Report

Write an essay using the information from your research. Start with an introduction followed by at least three paragraphs, one paragraph per character trait. Conclude with a brief paragraph that offers a personal connection or a reflection on that person's accomplishments and/or impact on others' lives. Revise your first draft and write your final copy.

Important! This assignment is due _____. Be sure to turn in your graphic organizer along with your final paper.



Reading Marathons



Overview

Reading Marathons are fun ways to motivate kids to read and to give them extended periods of time to experience the joy of a great book. Have students wear something comfortable and bring a special stuffed animal, blanket, or pillow for reading. It's also best to establish guidelines before you begin. Take a restroom break right before you start and make sure everyone has plenty of great reading material on hand.

Divide your Reading Marathon into “laps” and “checkpoints.” A lap is the actual reading time, and the checkpoint is a quick reading-related activity. To begin, let everyone spread out on the floor and find a spot to read, then set a timer for about 15 to 20 minutes for the first lap. When the timer goes off, involve students in a 5-minute reading-related activity (see ideas below). Then have them return to the same spot for the next lap. The number of laps you read is determined by the total time you have set aside for the Reading Marathon.

Suggested Guidelines

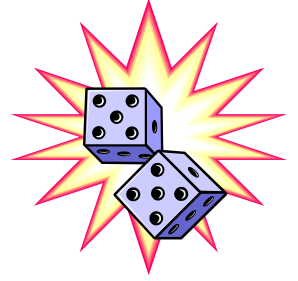
- Choose a reading location at least 3 feet from anyone else in the room. However, you must be actively reading, not sleeping, during the marathon. If you choose a spot on the floor and you aren't reading, you'll need to return to your desk.
- Stay in your spot during each lap of the Reading Marathon. You must have enough reading material for the full 15 to 20 minutes.
- Reading quietly and independently without distracting others.
- Keep the same reading location for each lap of the Reading Marathon.

Suggested Checkpoint Activities

- Work on a graphic organizer or foldable - During each 5-minute checkpoint, complete one part of the graphic organizer or foldable.
- Buddy Chat - Present a discussion topic every five minutes. Have students pair up with a buddy to respond to the question.
- Literature Circles - If a group of students is reading the same book, let them write one question, then get together and discuss their questions.



Valentine's Day Read 'N Roll

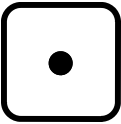







Today we will read great books and create Sharing Boards to tell about what we are reading. Fold a piece of paper into 6 sections. Write the title, author, and your name in the first section. Every 15 minutes we will roll a die to find out what to add to our Sharing Board. When you roll a number, look at the chart to see what to draw or write in the next section. Include the title at the top of each section. When we finish, everyone's board will be a little different!

Title Author Your Name		



Read 'n Roll

	Character Sketch Draw a sketch of the main characters in the book. Label each character with his or her name.
	Setting When and where did this story take place? Draw a sketch that will reveal the setting.
	Prediction What do you think will happen next? Write a few sentences or draw a sketch to show your prediction.
	Plot Write a short summary of the main events. Tell what has happened so far, but only include <u>important</u> details.
	Favorite Part Draw a sketch of your favorite part and write a caption to describe it OR write a few sentences about your favorite part.
	Evaluation How do you feel about this book? Would you recommend it to others? Why or why not?.



Friendship Cinquains

A cinquain is a simple five-line poem that follows a pattern. Interview a friend and use what you learn to write a cinquain about that person. Copy the cinquain onto the heart pattern.



Interview a Friend

1. What is your name? _____
2. What are some adjectives that describe you? _____

3. What are some activities that you enjoy? _____

4. What do you think makes you a good friend to others? _____

5. Do you have a nickname? _____
6. What else do you want to tell me about yourself? _____

Write the Poem

(Person's Name)

_____, _____
(Two adjectives describing the person.)

_____, _____, _____
(Three action words)

(A four-word phrase about friendship or the person you interviewed)

(Nickname or noun)

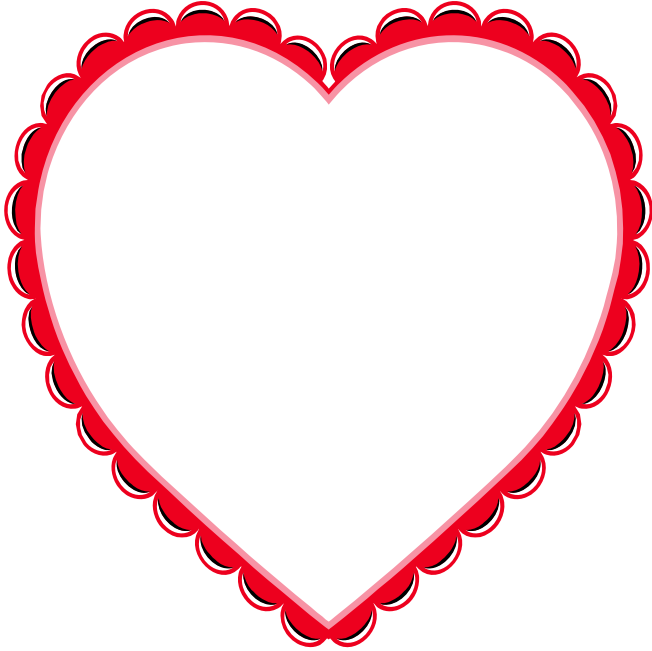


Heartfelt Thanks

Appreciation Sparks

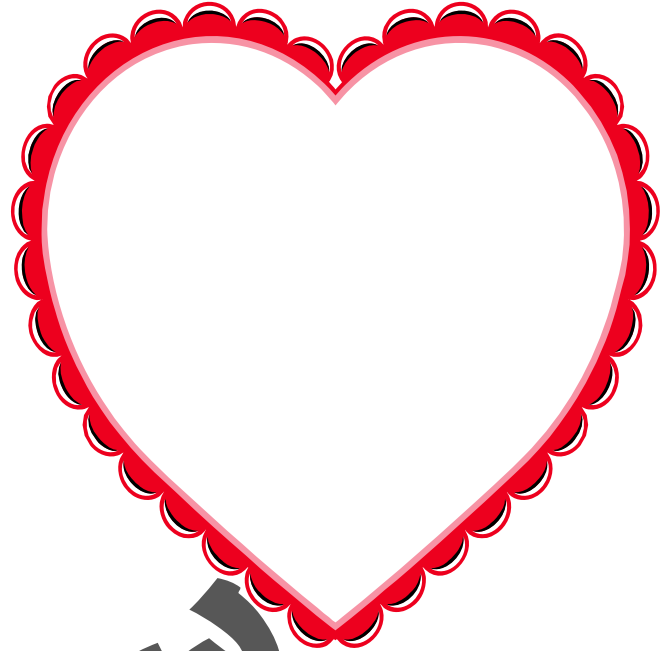


To: _____



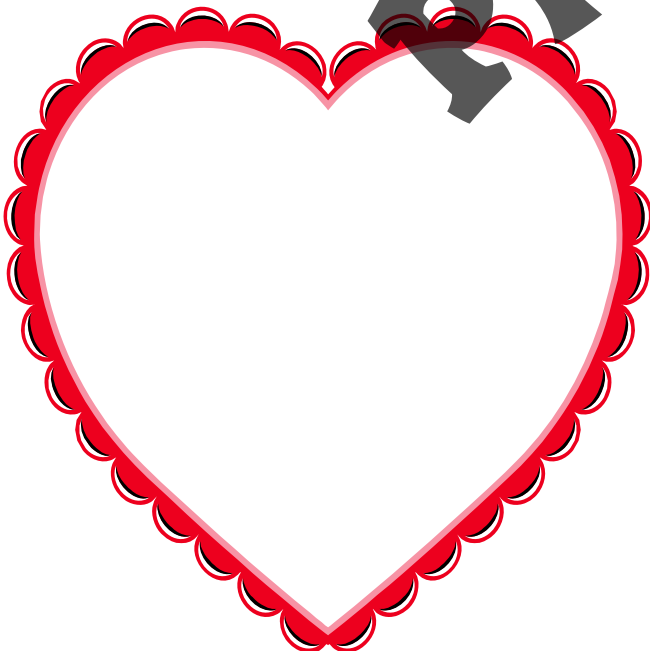
From: _____

To: _____



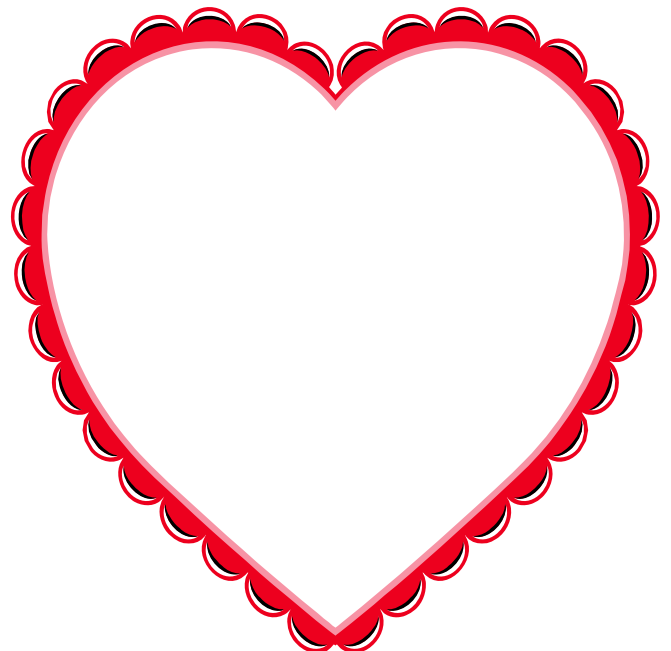
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From: _____

To: _____



From: _____

To: _____

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To: _____

From: _____

To: _____

From: _____

Preview

Just Wanted to Say

Appreciation Sparks

Thank you for ...
Congratulations for ...
I appreciate you for ...
I'll always remember how ...
It means a lot to me when ...
You're the best because ...
I like the way you ...
You should be recognized for ...

Valentine Candy Fractions

1. What fraction of your candies are pink? white? purple?

2. Count out 8 candies. What number is $\frac{1}{4}$ of the 8 candies?

3. Count out 9 candies. What number is $\frac{1}{3}$ of the candies? What number is $\frac{2}{3}$ of them?

4. Count out a dozen candies. What number is $\frac{1}{4}$ of the candies? What number is $\frac{1}{3}$ of them? What number is $\frac{3}{4}$ of the candies?

5. What if you had 15 candies. You ate $\frac{1}{3}$ of them and gave 3 to a friend. How many of the candies were left?

6. Make up your own fraction problem!



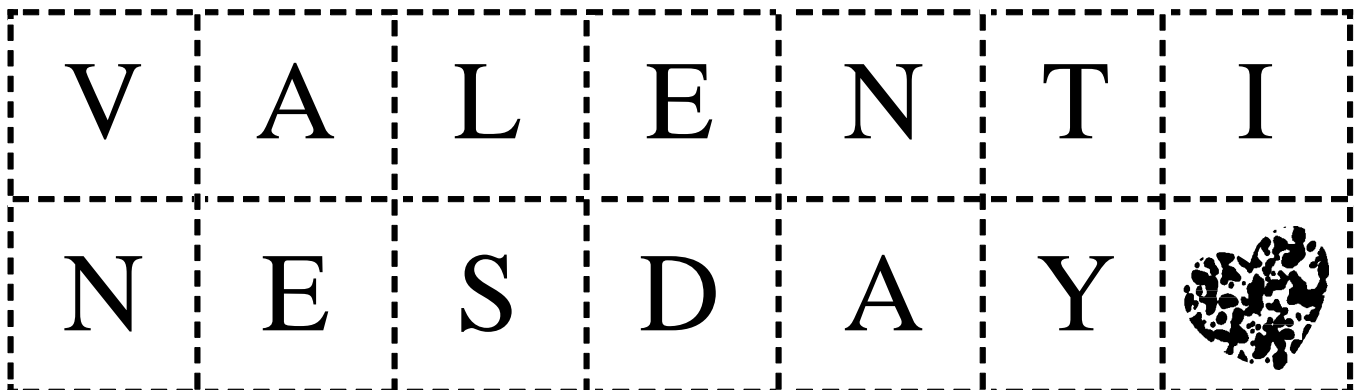
Valentine Word Challenge



How many words can you find in the letters of Valentine's Day ?
 Cut out the letters below and use them to help you make words. Work with a partner and take turns finding words and writing them on the lines.

- | | | |
|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| 1. _____ | 17. _____ | 33. _____ |
| 2. _____ | 18. _____ | 34. _____ |
| 3. _____ | 19. _____ | 35. _____ |
| 4. _____ | 20. _____ | 36. _____ |
| 5. _____ | 21. _____ | 37. _____ |
| 6. _____ | 22. _____ | 38. _____ |
| 7. _____ | 23. _____ | 39. _____ |
| 8. _____ | 24. _____ | 40. _____ |
| 9. _____ | 25. _____ | 41. _____ |
| 10. _____ | 26. _____ | 42. _____ |
| 11. _____ | 27. _____ | 43. _____ |
| 12. _____ | 28. _____ | 44. _____ |
| 13. _____ | 29. _____ | 45. _____ |
| 14. _____ | 30. _____ | 46. _____ |
| 15. _____ | 31. _____ | 47. _____ |
| 16. _____ | 32. _____ | 48. _____ |

Preview



Homework
Pass

Happy
Valentine's
Day!



Homework
Pass

Happy
Valentine's
Day!



Homework
Pass

Happy
Valentine's
Day!



Homework
Pass

Happy
Valentine's
Day!



Homework
Pass

Happy
Valentine's
Day!



Homework
Pass

Happy
Valentine's
Day!



Homework
Pass

Happy
Valentine's
Day!

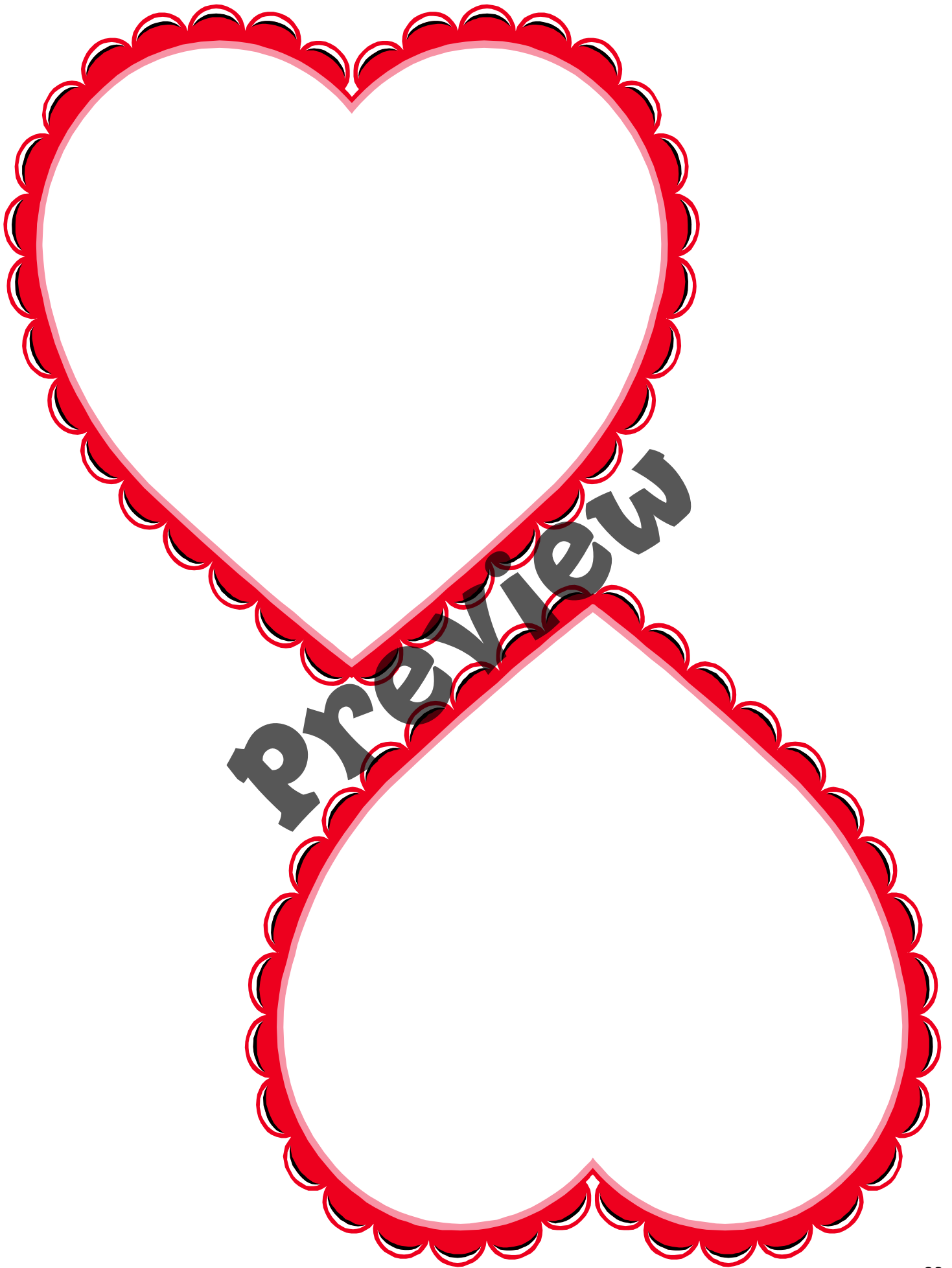


Homework
Pass

Happy
Valentine's
Day!









Laura Candler's Teaching Resources

If you enjoyed this free teaching resources pack, you might also enjoy some of my popular ebooks and lessons. You can purchase them from my store on TeachersPayTeachers.com by clicking the links below or by visiting my Teaching Resources website: www.lauracandler.com.



Laura Candler

Teaching Multiple Intelligence Theory

Bingo Showdown:

Confusing Words Review

Character Bio Reports

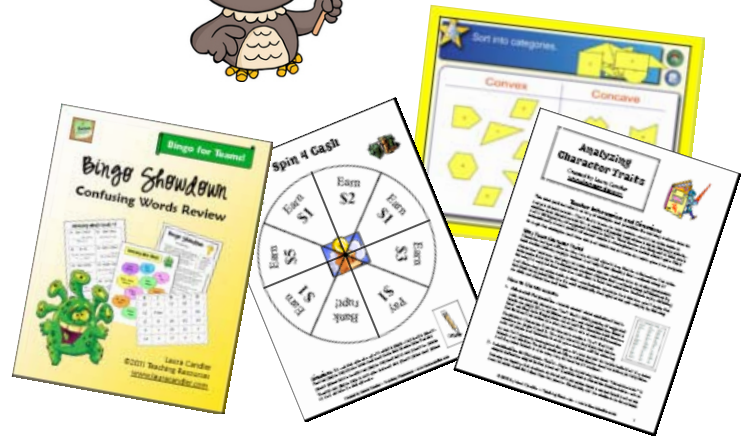
Analyzing Character Traits

Powerful Poetry Combo

Plural Noun Showdown

Sentence Go Round

Writing Powerful Poetry



Geometry: Exploring the Basics

Math Stations for Middle Grades (3-8)

Mastering Math Facts

Polygon Explorations

Polygon Explorations (Smartboard)

Place Value Spinner Games

Fraction Spinner Games

Simplify and Snap Fraction Game

Order of Operations Bingo

Seasonal Teaching Packs

October

November

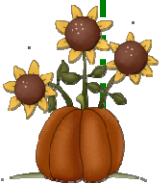
December

January

February (Free!)

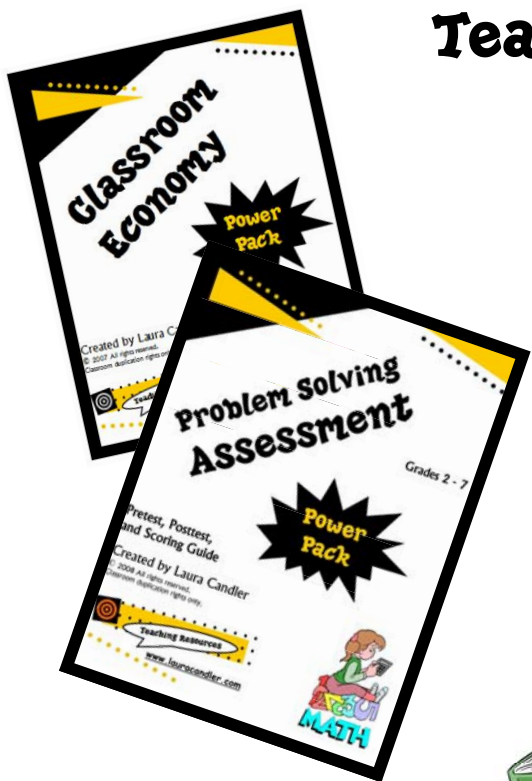
March

April



Teaching Resources Website

www.lauracandler.com

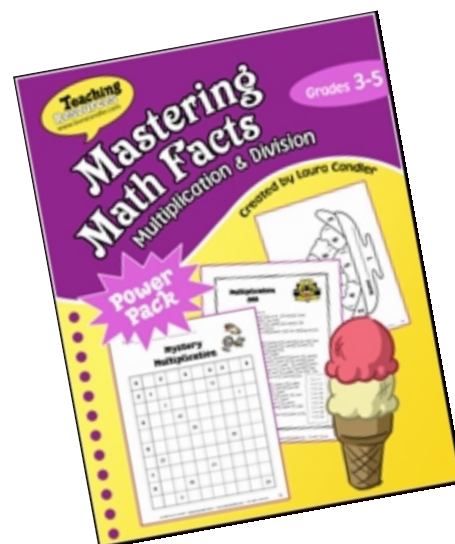


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- Blackline masters and activity sheets
- Lesson plans and teaching strategies
- Cooperative learning methods
- Classroom management and motivation
- Literacy and Literature Circle strategies
- Mathematics instructional resources
- Candler's Classroom Connections



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Workshop Information

- Invite Laura to your school or district to energize your teachers with powerful strategies!
- Workshops available:
 - * The Dynamic Duo:
 - Putting the Punch in Math Instruction
 - * Innovative Approaches to Literacy Instruction
- Teachers walk away with specific strategies to implement in their classrooms the next day.



Contact Laura for more information: lauracandler@att.net