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Tracy Jarboe & Stefani Sadler

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February

Ideas and Patterns

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Tracy Jarboe and Stefani Sadler are both Kindergarten teachers with over 25 years combined experience working with children. They are also authors, illustrators and national presenters dedicated to serving educational colleagues, parents and children.

Directions for the Candy Heart Color Graph

1. Photocopy a sorting mat and a graph for each child.
2. Give each child an individual serving packet of candy conversation hearts.
3. Have the students sort their conversation hearts by color on the sorting mat.
4. Have the students count how many hearts they have of each color and then color the corresponding number of squares on the graph.
5. Compare and contrast each child's graph. Which color did we have the most of, least of, ect.

Directions for the Valentine Match

1. Photocopy a heart pattern onto red or pink construction paper. Make sure you have enough for $\frac{1}{2}$ of your class.
2. Cut each heart in half using a different cut each time.
3. Give each child $\frac{1}{2}$ of a heart and ask them to find who has the other half of their heart.
4. Time the children to see how long it takes for everyone to find their valentine match.
5. Do this a second time and see if they can finish finding their matches in less time.

February Valentine—Science

Ice is not the only thing that floats on water: oil-based liquids that are not as dense as water also float on top of water. You can see this as you make beautiful colored paper. First mix a few drops of oil-based paint with a little turpentine in a paper cup. Repeat this process in different cups using different colors. Then place a bowl of water on some old newspapers or butcher paper. Add some of the paint (2 or 3 colors can be used) and swirl into the water using a stick. Carefully lower a sheet of plain paper onto the surface of the water. Let the paper soak up the paint. Remove the paper and leave it to dry. Repeat using fresh paper and a new water bowl with different color combinations. Stir the water to make different patterns. Use this beautiful paper to cut valentine hearts from.

* Oil paints are less dense than water so they float on the surface. This is why salad oil floats on top of vinegar. You can make these separate layers mix together by shaking them hard, but the mix is not permanent — this is a reversible change. A cracked and then scrambled egg or food coloring mixed with water is a good way to demonstrate irreversible change.

Combine cooking, learning about the color pink (red + white), the shape of a heart and Valentine's Day into one delicious activity. Prepare pancake mix, the kind that only needs water, the kids can help mix. Have each child squeeze some batter up into a turkey baster. The teacher then squirts the batter into a heated skillet in the shape of a heart. Then pass around a bowl full of "Cool Whip" and allow the children to place a spoonful on their pancake. Follow this with a bowl of sliced strawberries in juice. The berries and cool whip make a beautiful shade of pink when mixed together on the valentine heart pancake. The children enjoy this activity and the fine motor exercise.

Directions for the Valentine Heart Patterns

Use the Heart pattern as a math mat.

- Try completing addition or subtraction sentences using candy conversation hearts as manipulatives.
- Have the students write the numbers 1 through 12 inside the heart.

Use the Heart pattern as a writing frame.

- Have the students write their name in the heart. Then place all the hearts under a bulletin board title "We are so lovable". (Pre-school)
- Have the students write a Valentine poem or story in the heart.

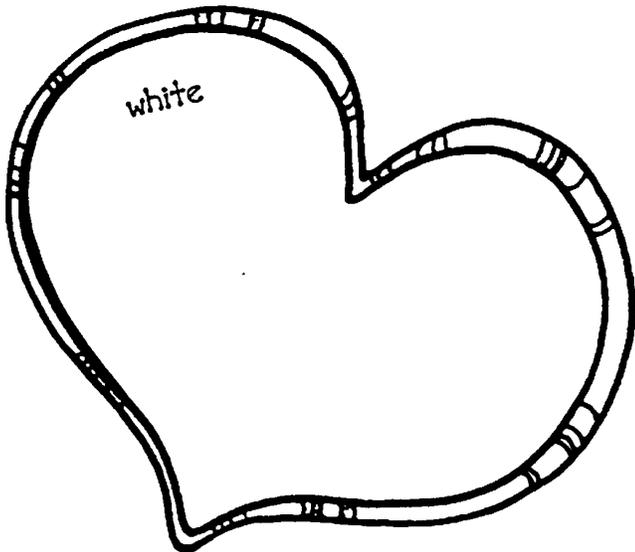
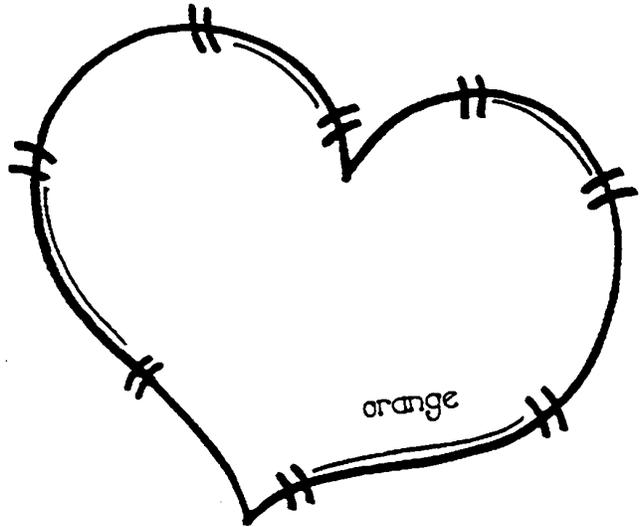
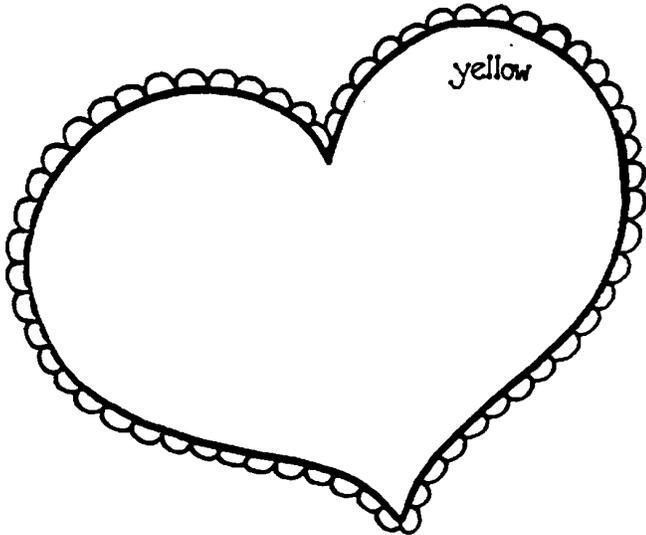
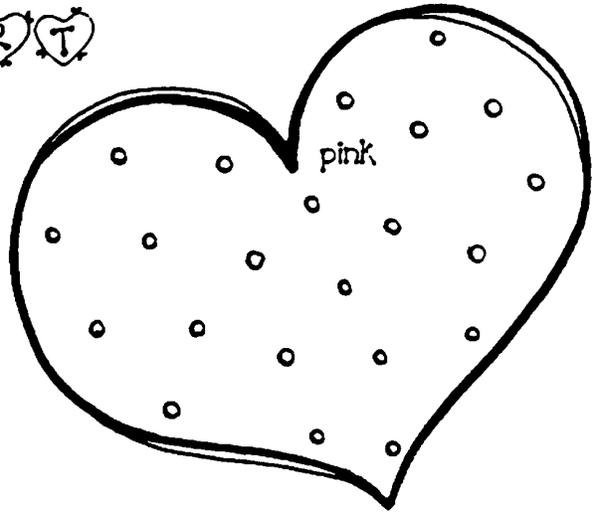
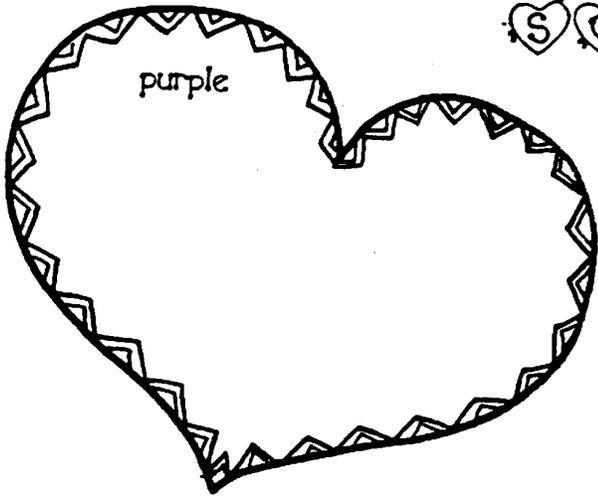
Use the Heart pattern as a class made book cover.

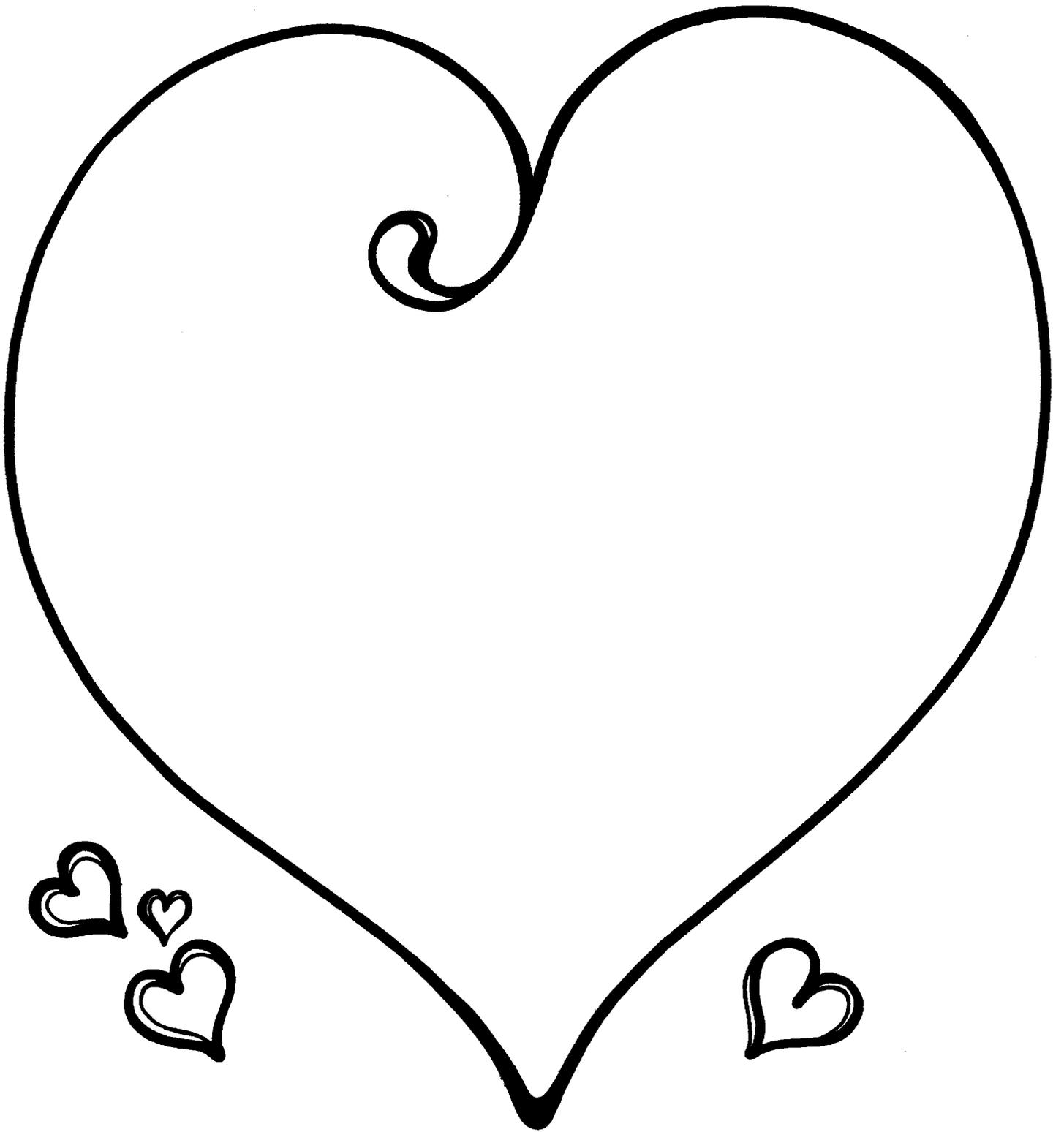
- Use the ___ is my valentine because . . . page for the students. Bind all the student pages together to make a class book

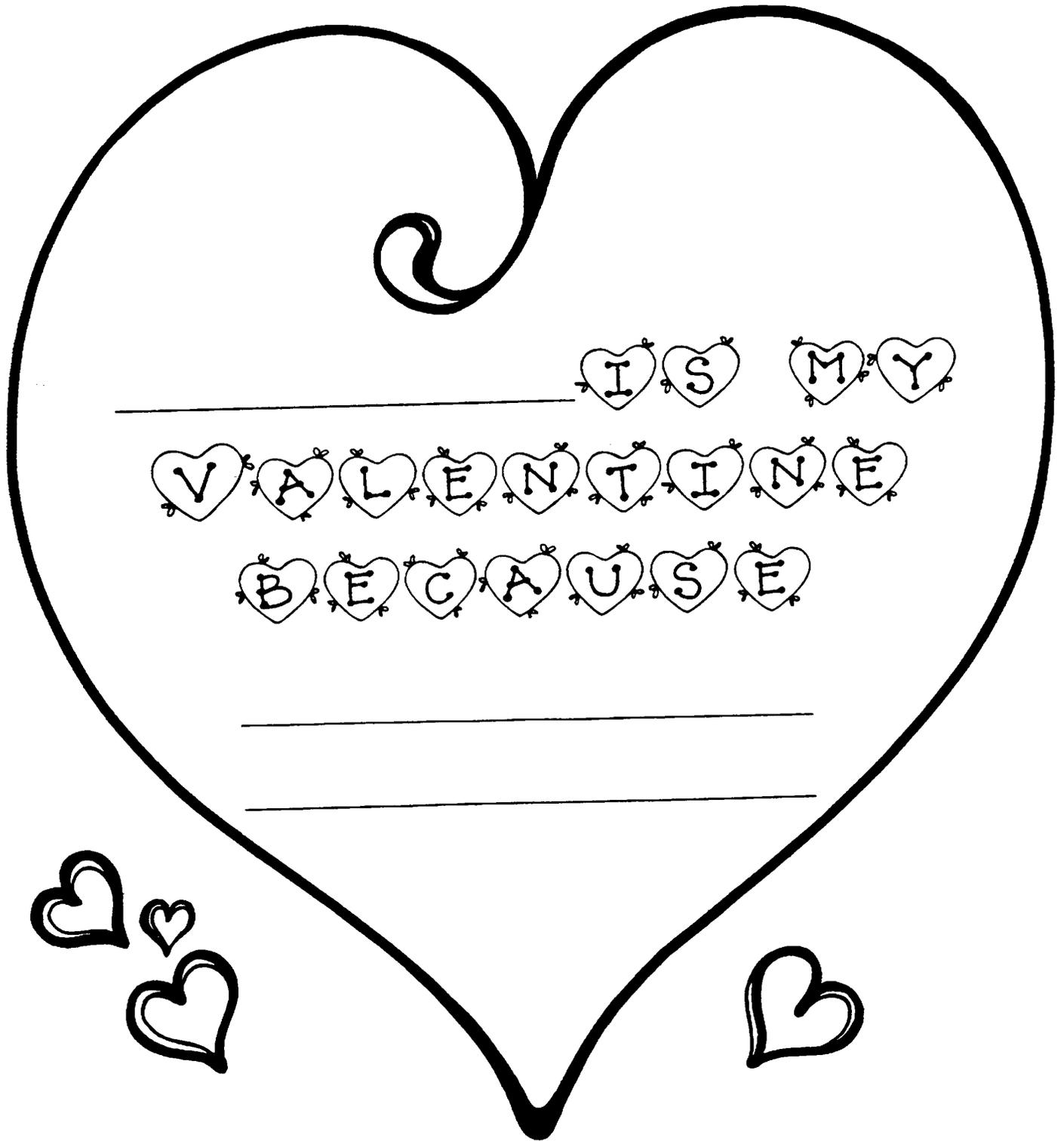
Directions for the Student Book Pattern

- Photocopy and quarter fold the "Valentines" book pattern.
- Have each student color and read the book.

CANDY HEART COLOR
SORT







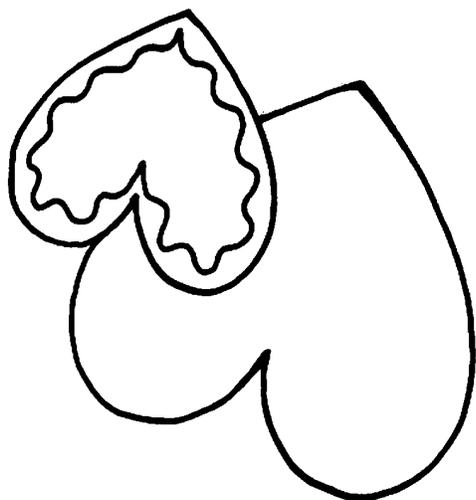
_____ IS MY

VALENTINE

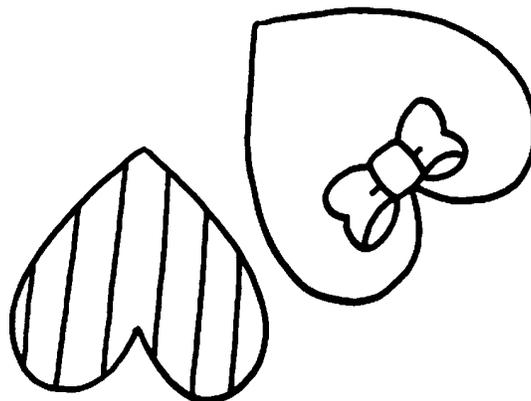
BECAUSE



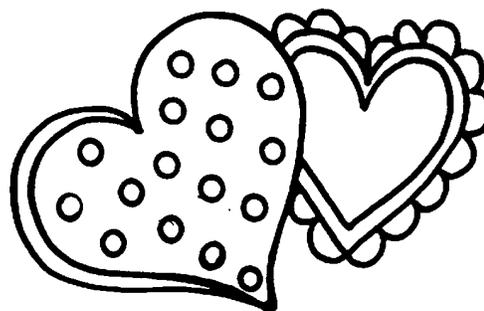
Valentines of purple,



Valentines of blue,



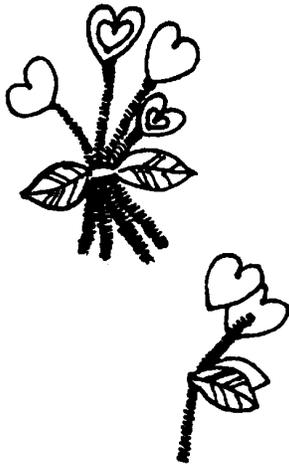
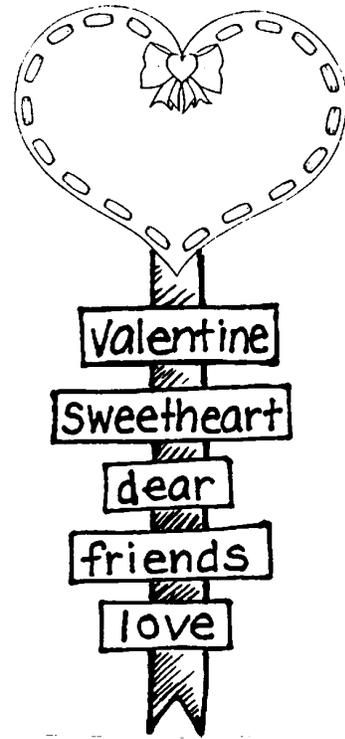
Valentines



All say, "I love you!"

Valentines of red,

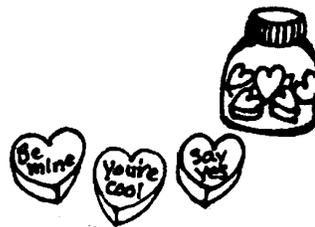
Hang a word ladder with commonly used Valentine words. The word ladder is made using a tag board heart with holes punched around the rim and ribbon laced through. A wide ribbon is taped to the back of the heart. Valentine words are placed on tag sentence strips and then using tape or Velcro they are attached to the wide ribbon.

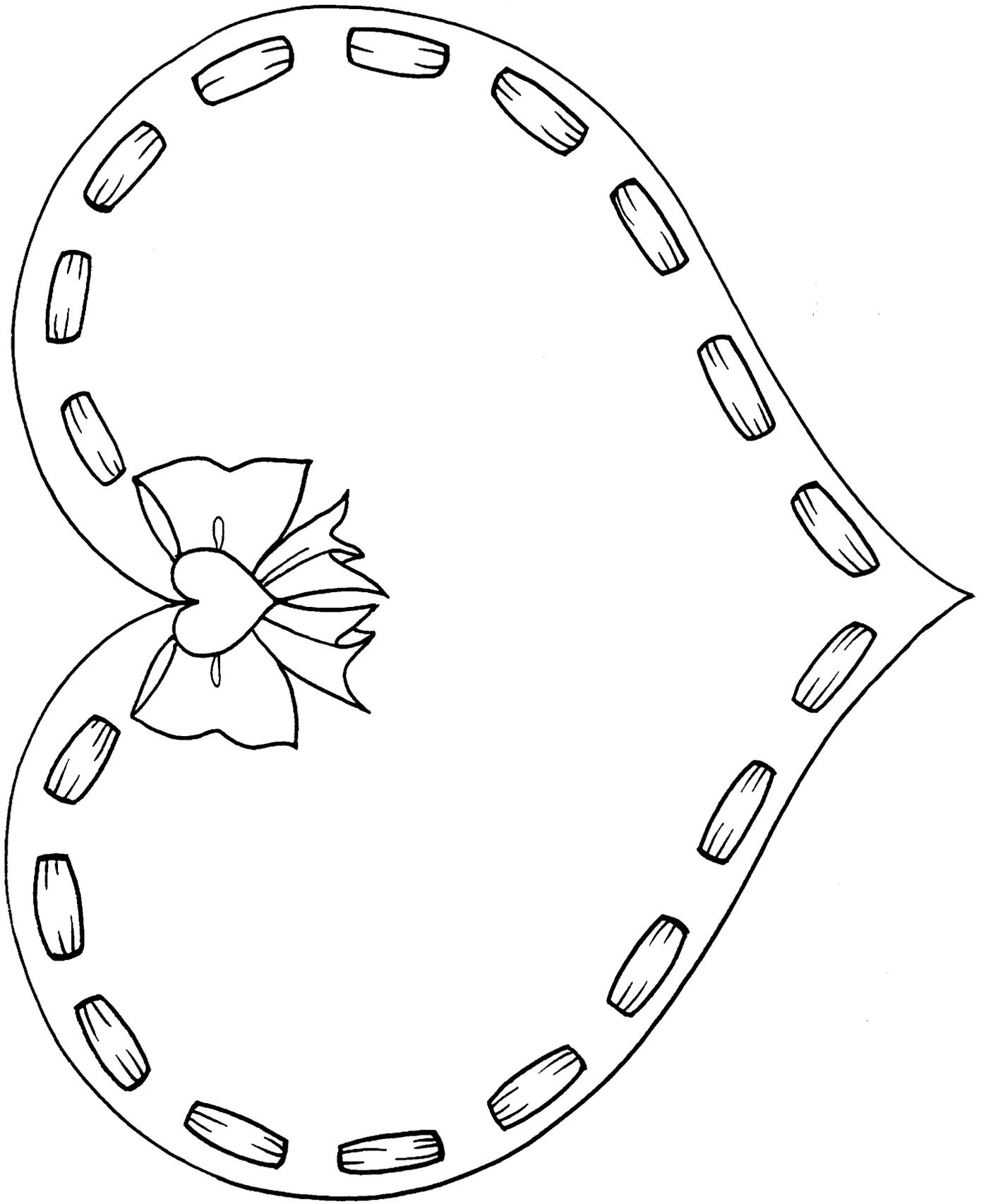


Make a Valentine Bouquet

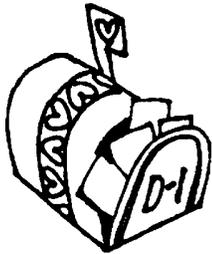
Cut out hearts of varying sizes & colors and be sure to cut through two layers at a time to make identical hearts. Glue the hearts together using a pipe cleaner for the stem. Green hearts may be cut to form the leaves.

Put out a clear jar of "Valentine Conversation Hearts" to generate writing. Try putting them together to form silly sentences.





Purchase or make a mailbox. Paint it red and gold. Label it with your room number. Write out the Jack Prelutsky poem "Our Classroom Has a Mailbox" on sentence strips or make a poster. Use this to send class valentines.



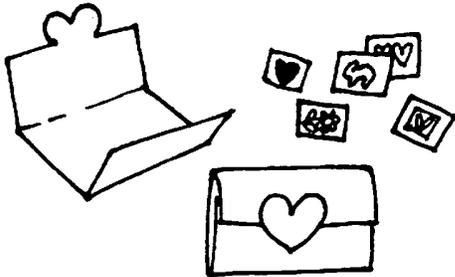
"Our Classroom Has a Mailbox"

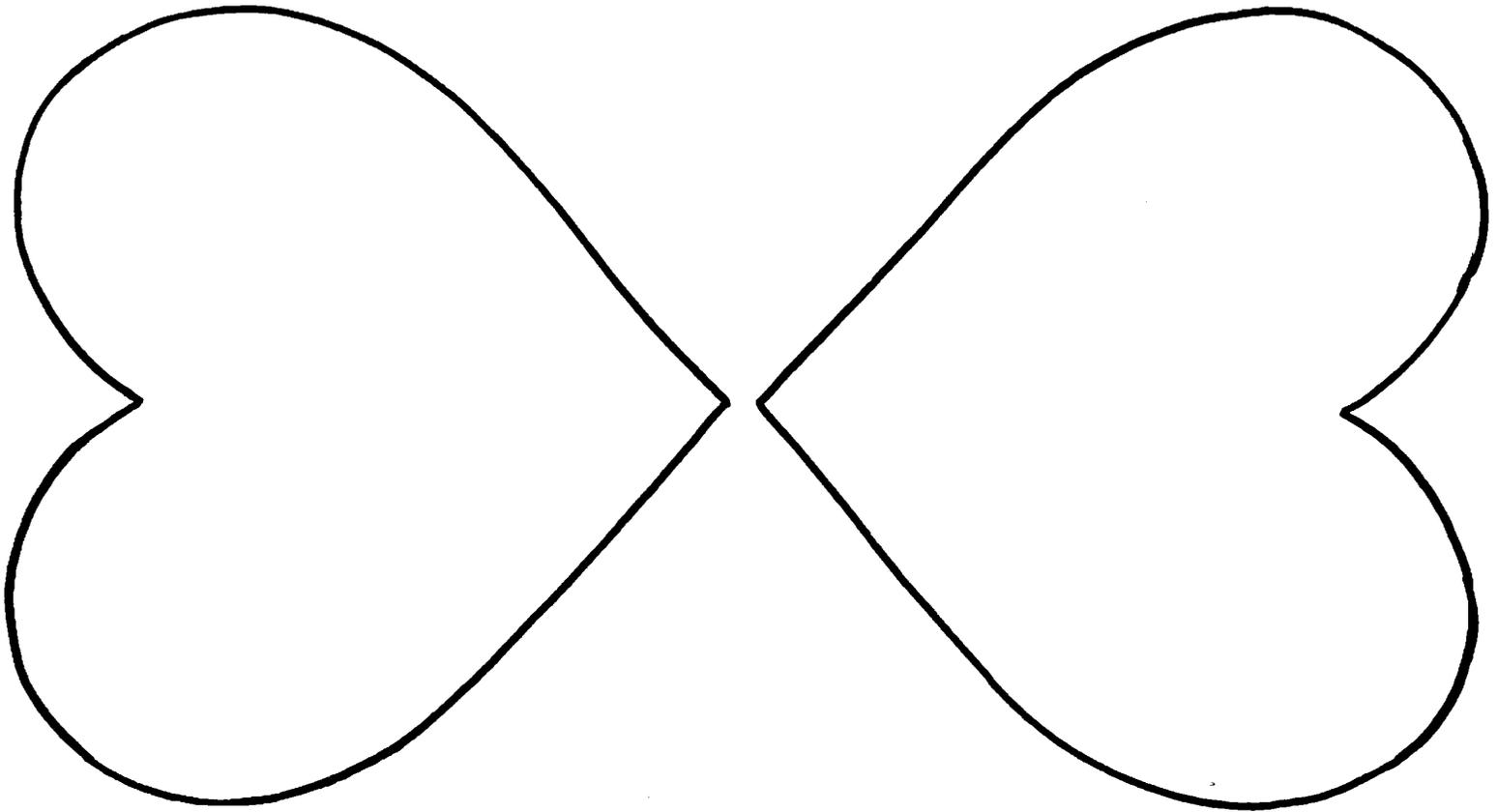
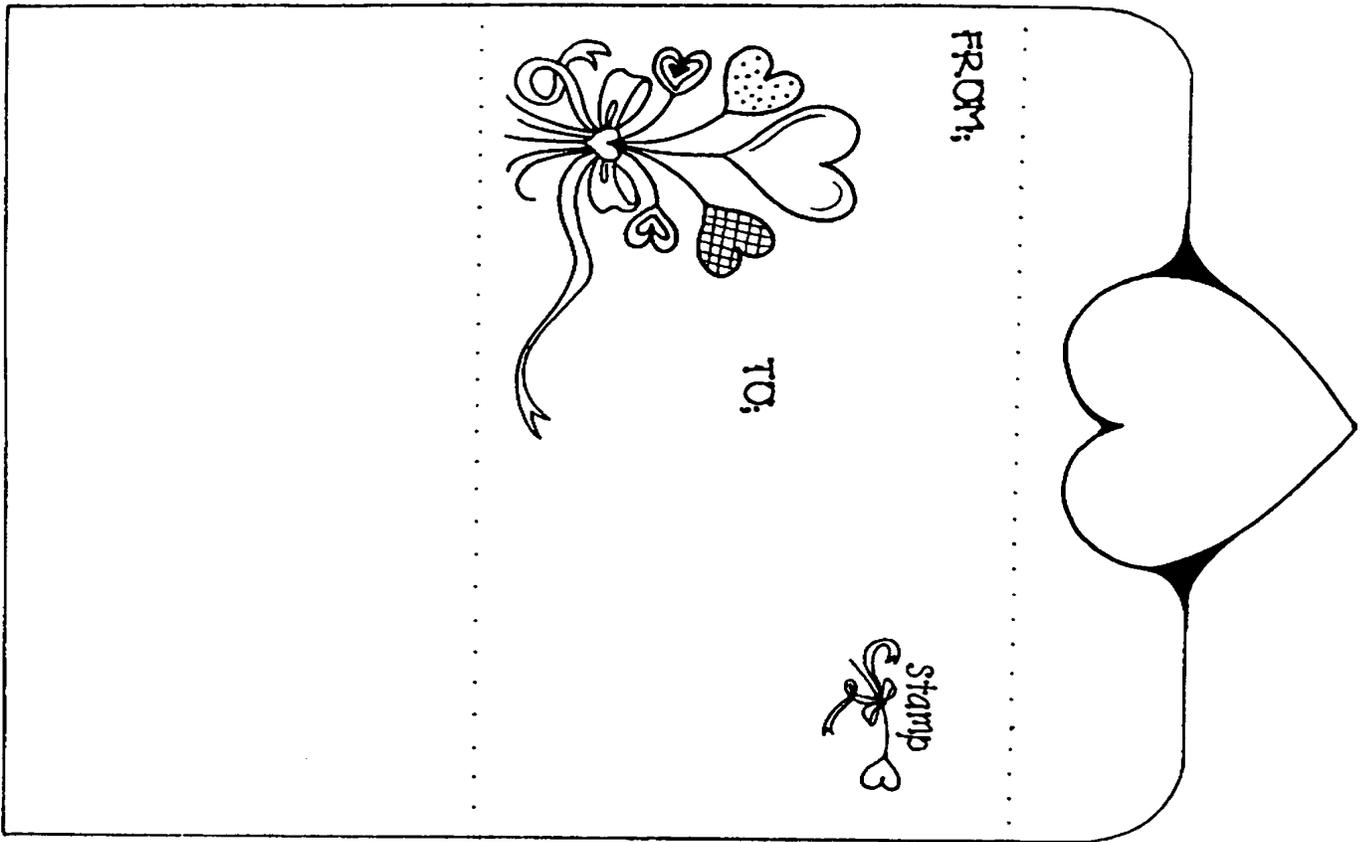
Our classroom has a mailbox
That we painted red and gold,
We stuffed it with more valentines
Then it was meant to hold.

When we opened it this morning
I was nervous as could be,
I wondered if a single one
Had been addressed to me.

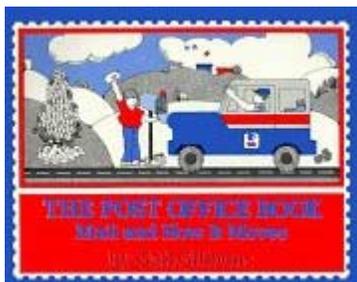
But when they'd been delivered
I felt twenty stories tall,
I got so many valentines
I couldn't hold them all.

Jack Prelutsky





Book Recommendations



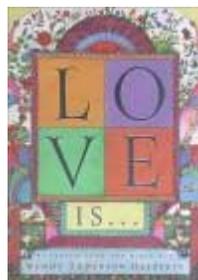
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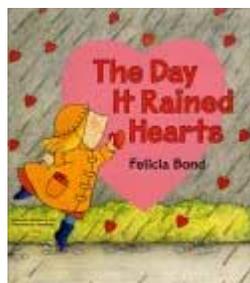
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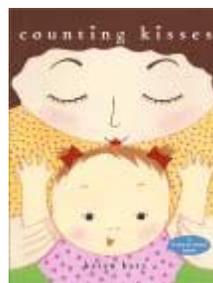
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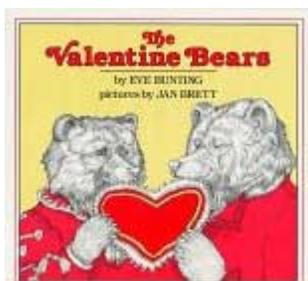
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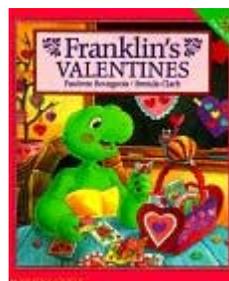
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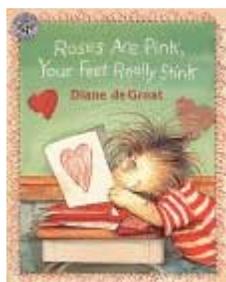
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