

Quick Project Ideas

Inventive Valentines K-6

When it comes to words of love, everyone struggles. Try words of laughter instead. Give kids a head start in creating handmade valentines for their parents, grandparents, pets, or “secretly admired” heroes, as they pun, riddle, and play with words.



Inventing New Ways to Say “I Love You”

Creating a pun, a play on words, or a double-entendre (double meaning), is a time-honored tradition for Valentine’s Day. Homonyms, multiple-meaning words, and figures of speech are at the heart of creating a funny message.

Activity: “Choo-Choo Choose” a Theme

With your students, brainstorm some themes—dinosaurs, robots, space exploration—for writing riddles, puns, and rhymes. Or, choose a theme from a unit you are studying. Share a few example puns from thematic joke books or age-appropriate vintage valentines.

Activity: Riddles, Rhymes, and Puns

After your students choose a theme, distribute page 2. Have partners fill out fun words related to their theme. Then they can use the list to write valentine puns, based on homonyms (same sound different meaning and/or spelling) and idioms (figures of speech). For example, “I really dig you,” is a figure of speech pun; “You rock!” is a homonym pun. Students might also create two-to-four-line rhyming poems or riddles. Have students draft and illustrate their valentine messages. Upload the artwork, and publish the collection in the **Art Portfolio StorySpark**.

TikaTok Tip Digital Valentines

TikaTok projects are immediately available for digital download. One download can be emailed to any number of loved ones. Plus—every new download from the same finished book is free.



Prompts and Projects

- **SCIENCE/STEM Caring Contraptions**
Removing one of life’s problems is a great way to say “I Care.” Have students invent a new contraption to make a loved one’s life easier. Use the **We Invented It StorySpark**.
- **SOCIAL STUDIES Love for Inventors**
For Black History and Women’s History Months focus on inventors. Have students write valentines addressed to one inventor they learn about.
- **MATHEMATICS Count the Ways**
Fill a clear jar with paper hearts of varied size and color. Have students estimate the number of hearts. On Valentine’s Day, students can count, sort, and even graph the hearts. Use the **Graphically Speaking StorySpark**.

Wrap-Up Reminder

TikaTok books are a nice way to wrap up the year. Plan ahead for publishing year-end projects. Get the PTO involved and plan a publishing party for your student authors!

What-A-Word

Instructions: Make a list of interesting, funny or unusual words related to your theme. When you are finished, turn your paper over and write homonyms, puns, and figures of speech using a few of the words.

Describing Words:

Topic Words:

Action Words:

Fun Words:

Author _____