

Valentine's Day Teacher's Notes A1+

This A1+-level article will shed perhaps a different light on what your pupils think of Valentine's Day in the U.S.A and in the U.K.

The audio activity distinguishing kind and mean messages in Valentine's poems fits into the media education and citizenship curriculum.

Vocabulary and Structures

- friendship, love
- simple present
- simple past: irregular verbs
- rhymes (same sound, different spelling)
- rhythm in poetic structures

Cultural Notions

- *Ecole et société*
- *Rencontres avec d'autres cultures*

Interaction

- We suggest video projecting the picture of the Winnie the Pooh card with its poem: "*Love is sweet. Love is kind. Love is you.*" The pupils are asked to react and can be guided with questions (*Who can you give this card to? When is a good moment to give this card? etc.*)
- Read the article and check comprehension collectively. Make sure pupils understand the focus on friendship and inclusiveness in American classrooms.

Listening + reading + writing

- The first activity focuses on aural word discrimination, progressively more difficult, before checking pupils' comprehension by deciding which poems are nice and which ones are mean in a second activity.
- With the help of the recording, the pupils can identify the rhythm of each poem and try to reproduce it when reading out loud.

- They are then asked to create their own card ending, with the help of vocabulary words given and trying to stick to a poem rhythm and rhyme. It could be useful to do a brainstorming around the word "love" or "friendship".
- To go further, pupils can design their own cards with the art teacher and write down their poem to give to the person of their choice.

Solutions

A. Word Discrimination

1. red, sweet
2. blue, dance
3. love, you
4. onions
5. fantastic, happened

B. Nice or Mean?

1. Nice: 1, 2, 3 / Mean: 4, 5
- 2.a. Mean because of the comparison with an animal, especially the smell (like the onions)
- b. Nice because the person can't live without their friend.
3. Possible answers: They are hurtful. They can make the person cry or start a fight. (Or: they are humorous, not serious – this can lead to a discussion.)

C.1. blue/you/too