



MINIS AT HOME

volume 1, issue 19

Greetings kids, parents, grandparents, guardians, friends and neighbors!

Welcome to issue 19 of Minis at Home newsletter. Each newsletter features a special theme and offers pertinent information, a craft, and recommended reading. Grownups: please work on projects together with your children. Your pARTicipation is important! We will offer hints and tips for ways to create art as a twosome or a family.

This week's theme = Valentine's Day

Valentine's Day is a day when we remind the people in our lives that we love them. This holiday is more than chocolate, gifts and hearts. It's an important day to show people how important they are to us. You may celebrate by having a special meal with your family, eating a delicious treat, getting flowers or making and receiving cards.



Although no one really knows exactly how Valentine's Day began, one story is that it goes back to the Roman Empire about 1700 years ago. The ruler did not want men to marry because he wanted them to fight in battles instead. But many men were secretly married by a man whose name was Bishop Valentine. When the ruler found out that Bishop Valentine was secretly marrying the men he wanted to be soldiers, he sent him to jail, where Valentine fell in love with the daughter of the jailer. Valentine wrote love letters to her and signed his letters "From Your Valentine." Over 200 years later, Pope Gelasius declared Feb. 14 Saint Valentine's Day in honor of the man who was dedicated to bringing people love and happiness.



Today we have many different symbols that represent Valentine's Day. Have you ever heard of **Cupid**? Cupid is the Roman god of love. He is shown as a happy and sometimes mischievous baby who carried around a bow and a bunch of magical arrows. He was thought to shoot his arrow into the hearts of people, causing them to fall in love. Cupid means "Amor" in Latin, and "Amor" means Love in English!



People thought the feeling of love came from the heart which is why a red heart is often used as a symbol of Valentine's Day. Other symbols of Valentine's Day include lace and red roses. Lace or "Lacier" (from Old French) means catch, snare or net (think of using a net when you go fishing), so you might say that you've caught or stolen someone's heart. Red roses symbolize Aphrodite, the Greek goddess of love and beauty. Aphrodite is known as Venus in Roman mythology, and Cupid—no surprise here—is her son!



Of course, we can't forget about chocolate, which is the most popular gift for Valentine's Day. People say that eating chocolate makes you feel happy!

The celebration of Valentine's Day in the United States began almost 200 years ago. People **commemorated** this day by making beautiful cards using lace, ribbon and fancy paper. Now, we can easily buy many types of cards in stores, but it's WAY more fun to make your own special ones. The craft that follows shows you how to make special keepsake handprint valentines for your family and friends!

Activity: Craft

Butterfly Handprint Card



Materials:

Washable paint

Construction paper

Pencil

Scissors

Small googly eyes

Pipe cleaner

Aleene's tacky glue

Marker

Toilet paper or paper towel roll
to use for butterfly body (optional)

Procedure:

- Stack 2 sheets of construction paper. Fold both pieces in half.
- Draw **half** of a heart with the center of the heart along the **folded** edge of the paper. Cut out the shapes (you should have 2 full hearts).
- Using a different color of paper, cut out a long skinny oval for the butterfly's body or use a toilet paper or paper towel roll (depending how big you want your butterfly to be). If using a paper roll, paint it the color of your choice.
- Paint your child's hand with washable paint and stamp their hand onto both hearts. When dry, attach the hearts at the pointy tips, so that they resemble butterfly wings.
- Glue on the body. Add the googly eyes and pipe cleaners. Draw a smile under the eyes.

- Decorate your butterfly card with small hearts, lace or glitter.
- Write the words “**You make my heart flutter**” or your own special message of friendship and love on the card.

Activity: Move and Sing

H-E-A-R-T Valentine Song (from kiboomers.com)

(Sung to B-I-N-G-O)

**I made a Valentine for you
The heart shape says "I love you"
H-E-A-R-T, H-E-A-R-T, H-E-A-R-T,
The heart shape says "I love you"**

Repeat, replacing each letter, one letter at a time,
with a clap



I'm a Little Valentine (childfun.com)

(sung to "I'm a Little Teapot")

**I'm a little valentine,
red and white
With ribbons and lace,
I'm a beautiful sight
I can say, "I Love You"
on Valentine's Day
Just put me in an envelope
and give me away!**

Valentine Pokey (original author unknown)

(sung to "The Hokey Pokey")

**You put your right arm out
You put your left arm out
You bring those arms around you
And you squeeze with all your might (hug
yourself)
You hug and say "I love you"
And you spread it all around
(push out both arms from your body flicking
your fingers to sprinkle love)
That's what it's all about!**



Literacy: RECOMMENDED BOOKS

Snuggle up in a big comfy chair and read together

Plant a Kiss by Amy Krouse Rosenthal

The Day It Rained Hearts by Felicia Bond

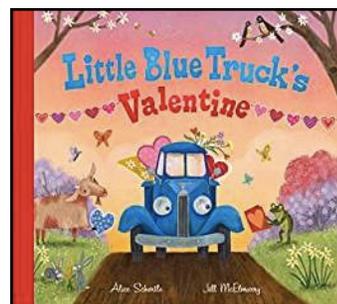
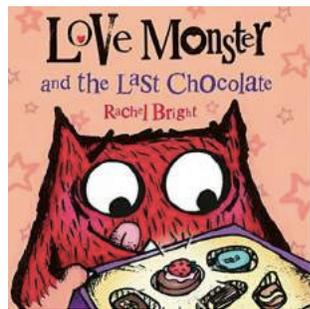
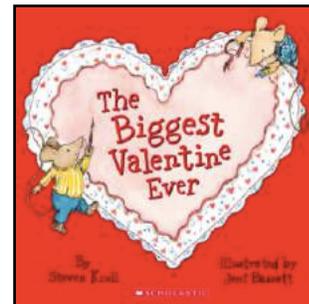
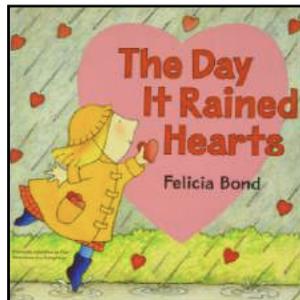
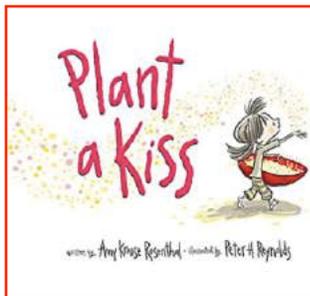
The Biggest Valentine Ever by Steven Kroll

Love Monster and the Last Chocolate by Rachel Bright

I Love you and Cheese Pizza by Brenda Li

Little Blue Truck's Valentine by Alice Schertle

There Was an Old Lady Who Swallowed a Rose by Lucille Colandro



Creatively yours,

Ann Hansen,
Director of Mini Masters at
the Academy Art Museum

ahansen@academyartmuseum.org

Constance Del Nero,
Director of Children's
Education and Community
Programs

cdelnero@academyartmuseum.org

See you next week with issue 20 of **Minis at Home!**

Share your work on <https://www.instagram.com/minimastersaam/>

or email pictures to Ann Hansen ahansen@academyartmuseum.org

or Constance Del Nero cdelnero@academyartmuseum.org

Please Like us on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/minimastersacademy>