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## **Valentines Cards: An Art Project Or Should They Be Store Bought?**

**By Nicola Kennedy**

Giving Valentines to your classmates used to include endless hours of making them out of construction paper, cute dollies and with painstaking attention to all the details. It was a project that was done at home, for each individual child in the class. And, it was one that great pride was taken in doing. Today, there are much fewer families making Valentines and many more just buying a box of them to give out to their classmates with a simple signature on the back of them.

This has happened mainly because of how commercialized the holiday has become. As manufacturing techniques have gotten better and more cost effective that is the way that American school children have gone. Before this, in the 1960's, a book of valentines could be purchased. Children could actually cut out the cards from the book, personalize them with lace trim or even with candy and then send them on. But, it wasn't long before children were ready to skip the cutting out part altogether.

### **The Puns**

Who hasn't smirked at the cute sayings that are placed on the Valentines cards? Such sayings as "I'm Sweet On You" have been used for years and years. It came from a time of collecting these types of catchy, cute sayings and riddles. These can still be found today on the Valentines that are purchased out of the box.

### **The Cards**

The cards used to fill a box with a variety of different styles and designs. Common ones were those of fruits and vegetables with these puns on them or they could include a few pictures of cute animals. Today, children's Valentines are more often in their favorite cartoon character.

### **Homemade Valentines**

While children may not feel comfortable with providing homemade Valentines to their classmates today, they can and should still make them for their friends outside the classroom, for their adult friends and other loved ones. Not only is it a fun task to do, but it helps with motor skills and creativity as well. All that is needed is a simple piece of paper. The paper can be folded, cut, shaped in any way that

they would like it to be. Here's one project to try:

- \* Fold the paper in half, and then fold it in half again in the other direction.
- \* Trim the outer edge as desired and cut a straight line diagonally across the folded corner. This will make a diamond shape in the middle.
- \* Fold it diagonally. Cut hearts along the diagonal line. When the paper is unfolded, there is a line of pin pricks, which make it look much like a piece of lace.
- \* Add this lacey paper to the top of a piece of pink or red paper.
- \* Add decorations such as a picture of cupid, a coloring of a rose or anything that is enjoyable.

This is a simple, affordable way to make homemade Valentines that parents and other friends will love to hang on to for many years to come. If your child seems to want to use only Valentines that are store bought, this should be okay as well. Allow them to pick those that they find enjoyable and help them to make those for others as well.

Nicola Kennedy has become an expert in giving [valentines day cards](#) that are appreciated. Visit her site <http://www.Best-Valentines.info> for more great Valentines gift ideas to make Valentines 2006 a special one. Copyright Best-Valentines.info All rights reserved. This article may be reprinted in full so long as the resource box and the live links are included intact.

## Valentines Day

By Bud Smith

### Valentines Day

by: **Bud Smith**

Ever wondered how February 14 became, the day on which we celebrate and explore love in all its many ideals, Valentines Day.

There are many differing opinions on how Valentines Day started.

One story say that when the Roman Empire reigned, a festival every February was held in honour of the God of Fertility and during this time, young men would choose their mate. When a Emperor named Claudius can around, he outlawed all marriages in fear that the men would not be able to fight. Young couples still fell in love though and still wished to marry and they took these desires to the Catholic Bishop Valentine who, understanding love, began to secretly marry couples. When Claudius found out, he had Valentine arrested and ordered put to death. While waiting in jail, Valentine began exchanging letters with the jailers daughter and soon had fallen in love with her. The day he was to be beheaded, he wrote her one last note and signed it: From Your Valentine.

Another story points to Christianity in 496 A.D outlawing the pagan Lupercian Festival and replacing it with a day in February to honour the martyr St. Valentine.

A third story as to the origin of passing out cards stems from a French Count who was captured and imprisoned in London. From his cell he wrote his wife letters, including a passionate set of poems which he sent to her in February.

At the turn of the century, a new form of Valentines Day card appeared the Penny Dreadful. Up until this point, cards were relatively expensive but the Penny Dreadful changed all that. They were just what the name implied, costing only one cent and completely bad. The cards were cheaply made, the artwork was amateurish and the colouring was uneven. On top of that the verses printed on them were not the most romantic of prose. They were more often insults, taking swipes at old maids, teachers and the like. Still their low cost kept them popular for years.

For hundreds of years, Valentines Day has been a day of symbols. You can hardly go through the day without seeing a rose (as a symbol to Venus, the Goddess of Love), images of doves and lovebirds (who mate for life) or hearts. The heart was thought to be the centre of all emotion. People believed that when they gave a heart, they were truly giving all of the love and emotion that they possibly could give.

Its past aside, Valentines Day is the second the most popular card sending holiday just behind Christmas with one billion a cards sent a year. When the calendar turns to February, we start to think of love. February has for centuries been designated the month for lovers, with the primary celebration being on February 14, St. Valentines Day. We send cards, flowers, and candy and our children give out Valentines in school. Valentines Day reminds us to tell our loved ones just how much we care about them.

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