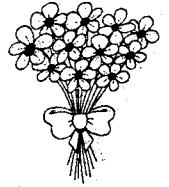


# Valentines Day



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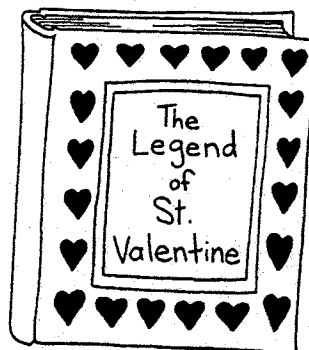
## INFORMATION CARD 1

### THE LEGENDS OF ST. VALENTINE

There have been several legends told about St. Valentine because no one knows the real story. One legend described St. Valentine as a Roman priest or bishop who lived in the third century after Christ. St. Valentine had a special feeling for young people. In the Roman Empire, Emperor Claudius the Second decreed that no one could marry or become engaged. He felt that married men wanted to stay at home instead of fighting wars. Valentine defied the Emperor's law and married young couples secretly. The Emperor ordered that Valentine be arrested, imprisoned and put to death.

Another legend says that Valentine was captured for helping Christians who were being persecuted by the Emperor Claudius the Second. While Valentine was in prison, he became friendly with the jailer's daughter. He miraculously restored her sight. On the morning of his execution, he is said to have sent her a farwell message. The message was signed "From your Valentine."

On February the fourteenth, Valentine was beheaded. The legend says that when he was buried, a pink almond tree beside his grave bloomed as a symbol of lasting love.

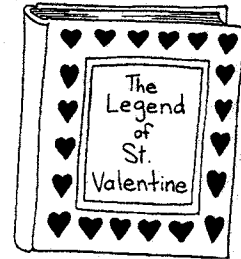


READING ACTIVITY 1

VALENTINE READING

Read the story called "The Legends of St. Valentine."

Answer each question in a complete sentence.



1. Who was St. Valentine?

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2. Why did he disobey the Emperor's law?

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3. List the reasons why St. Valentine was put in prison.

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4. What miracle did he perform while in prison?

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5. When was St. Valentine executed?

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6. What mysterious event happened the day St. Valentine was buried?

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## INFORMATION CARD 2

### LUPERCALIA

Lupercalia was a Roman festival that was held on February the fourteenth. In the very early days in Rome, Lupercalia was a spring festival. It was held to honour Faunus, who was a god of herds and crops. Each year on February the fourteenth, the Luperci priests gathered on the Palatine at the cave of "Lupercus." Several goats and a dog were sacrificed at the door of the cave. Two youths of noble births were brought to the doorway. Blood was put on their foreheads and then removed with sheep's wool that had been dipped in milk.

The two youths would laugh and run through the Roman streets hitting people with goatskin thongs. The streets would be filled with young women. A lash from the sacred thongs was believed to make them better able to have children.

The thongs were the "februa" and the lashing the "februatio." Both words came from the Latin word meaning to purify. The name February comes from the same word.



READING ACTIVITY 2

VALENTINE READING

Read the story called "Lupercalia."

**Rewrite** each sentence to make it a **true** statement.

1. Lupercalia was a Roman festival held in the winter.

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2. Lupercalia was held every year on July the second.

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3. The Luperci priests sacrificed cats and rabbits at the doorway of the cave of "Lupercus" during the festival.

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4. Three youths would run through the streets hitting people with sticks.

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5. Young women were afraid of being hit by the thongs because they believed that they would not be able to bear children.

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6. February comes from the French word that means to purify.

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