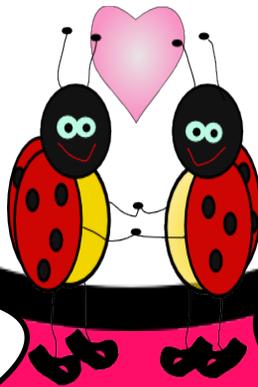


# Middle School Valentine's Day ELA Activities



Common Core  
Reading Activity!

No Prep!  
Ready-Made  
Handouts!

Poetry Writing  
Activities!



## ELA Core Plans

Teacher-Written Standards-Based Lesson Plans

Thank you for purchasing this Valentine's Day teaching unit. We hope you love it!



**DO NOT PHOTOCOPY**  
(Except for your own classroom)



**DO NOT POST ONLINE.**

By Tammy D. Sutherland and Shannon B. Temple

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**Order number MSVD013015  
ELA Core Plans**

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# “Cupid Stung” Reading Plan

## Reading Strategy 1: Coral read

Entire class reads poem aloud. Circle any unfamiliar words.

## Reading Strategy 2: Partner read

Partners read the poem again and paraphrase each stanza.

## Reading Strategy 3: Independent read

Students will read the poem one more time and answer comprehension questions.

## Cupid Stung

Cupid once upon a bed  
Of roses laid his weary head;  
Luckless urchin, not to see  
Within the leaves a slumbering  
bee.

The bee awak'd—with anger wild  
The bee awak'd, and stung the  
child.

Loud and piteous are his cries;  
To Venus quick he runs, he flies;  
"Oh, Mother! I am wounded  
through—

I die with pain—in sooth I do!  
Stung by some little angry thing,  
Some serpent on a tiny wing—  
A bee it was—for once, I know,  
I heard a rustic call it so.

"Thus he spoke, and she the while  
Heard him with a soothing smile;  
Then said, "My infant, if so much  
Thou feel the little wild bee's  
touch,  
How must the heart, ah, Cupid!  
be,  
The hapless heart that's stung by  
thee!"

# Partner Read "Cupid Stung"

## Paraphrase Each Stanza



Stanza	Paraphrase
<p>Cupid once upon a bed Of roses laid his weary head; Luckless urchin, not to see Within the leaves a slumbering bee.</p>	
<p>The bee awak'd—with anger wild The bee awak'd, and stung the child. Loud and piteous are his cries; To Venus quick he runs, he flies; "Oh, Mother! I am wounded through—</p>	
<p>I die with pain—in sooth I do! Stung by some little angry thing, Some serpent on a tiny wing— A bee it was—for once, I know, I heard a rustic call it so.</p>	
<p>"Thus he spoke, and she the while Heard him with a soothing smile; Then said, "My infant, if so much Thou feel the little wild bee's touch, How must the heart, ah, Cupid! be, The hapless heart that's stung by thee!"</p>	

**Partner Read “Cupid Stung”**  
**Paraphrase Each Stanza**  
**Sample Answers**



Stanza	Paraphrase
<p>Cupid once upon a bed            Of roses laid his weary head;            Luckless urchin, not to see            Within the leaves a slumbering bee.</p>	<p>Cupid was lying in a bed of roses. A mischievous young child, and unlucky too, he did not see a bee which was asleep in the leaves.</p>
<p>The bee awak'd—with anger wild            The bee awak'd, and stung the child.            Loud and piteous are his cries;            To Venus quick he runs, he flies;            "Oh, Mother! I am wounded through—</p>	<p>The bee was awakened by Cupid and became angry. The bee stung cupid. Cupid had a very loud and pitiful cry and ran quickly to his mother and told her he was hurt.</p>
<p>I die with pain—in sooth I do!            Stung by some little angry thing,            Some serpent on a tiny wing—            A bee it was—for once, I know,            I heard a rustic call it so.</p>	<p>He dramatically told his mother he was dying. Even though Cupid knew that it was a bee that stung him, he calls it a serpent at first, probably because he thought of it as a lowly, evil creature.</p>
<p>"Thus he spoke, and she the while            Heard him with a soothing smile;            Then said, "My infant, if so much            Thou feel the little wild bee's touch,            How must the heart, ah, Cupid! be,            The hapless heart that's stung by thee!"</p>	<p>The mother listened and smiled a soothing smile and explained to Cupid that if a little bee sting hurt him that much, imagine how much his arrows hurt those he shoots!</p>



# “Cupid Stung” Independent Reading Questions



Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

1. Why did the bee sting Cupid?
  - a. The bee was afraid that Cupid would shoot an arrow at him first.
  - b. The bee was angry because Cupid woke it up from a nap.
  - c. The bee accidentally stung Cupid.
  - d. The bee wanted Cupid to know what it felt like to be stung.
2. Which line from the poem best supports your answer to Question 1?
  - a. The bee awak'd—with anger wild The bee awak'd, and stung the child.
  - b. Loud and piteous are his cries; To Venus quick he runs, he flies
  - c. Some serpent on a tiny wing—A bee it was—for once, I know, I heard a rustic call it so.
  - d. How must the heart, ah, Cupid! be, The hapless heart that's stung by thee!
3. In this poem, Venus is \_\_\_\_\_.
  - a. Another planet
  - b. Cupid's mother
  - c. The Underworld
  - d. Cupid's friend
4. Why does Cupid most likely refer to the bee as “Some serpent on a tiny wing?”
  - a. because a serpent represents evil, and Cupid considers the bee to be evil
  - b. because the bee looked like a snake
  - c. because the bee was on its belly when it stung Cupid
  - d. because the bee has small wings
5. What does the word hapless mean as it is used in the last line of the poem?
  - a. Angry
  - b. Full
  - c. Unlucky
  - d. Proud
6. Explain in your own words what Venus is telling Cupid at the end of the poem. Use lines from the poem to support your answer.

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# “Cupid Stung” Independent Reading Questions



Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Date \_\_\_\_\_

1. Why did the bee sting Cupid?
  - a. The bee was afraid that Cupid would shoot an arrow at him first.
  - b. **The bee was angry because Cupid woke it up from a nap.**
  - c. The bee accidentally stung Cupid.
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  - a. **The bee awak'd—with anger wild The bee awak'd, and stung the child.**
  - b. Loud and piteous are his cries; To Venus quick he runs, he flies
  - c. Some serpent on a tiny wing—A bee it was—for once, I know, I heard a rustic call it so.
  - d. How must the heart, ah, Cupid! be, The hapless heart that's stung by thee!
3. In this poem, Venus is \_\_\_\_\_.
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  - b. because the bee looked like a snake
  - c. because the bee was on its belly when it stung Cupid
  - d. because the bee has small wings
5. What does the word hapless mean as it is used in the last line of the poem?
  - a. angry
  - b. full
  - c. **unlucky**
  - d. proud
6. Explain in your own words what Venus is telling Cupid at the end of the poem. Use lines from the poem to support your answer.
  - **Venus is explaining to her son that if a small bee sting hurts him, then he should imagine how much an arrow hurts those whom he shoots. This is evident in the last two lines when Venus says, “How must the heart, ah, Cupid! be, The hapless heart that's stung by thee!”**

# Valentines / Am Poems



Think about words associated with Valentine's Day. Some ideas are in the box below. Brainstorm to add more words to the box.

love	heartache	heart	Valentine's Day
	marriage	Cupid	candy
a box of chocolates		a dozen roses	

Complete the following *I Am* poem from the point of view of one of the words listed in the box. Write the first two words of each stanza, and then follow the directions in parenthesis to finish each line.

I am (two special characteristics that describe this word)  
I wonder (something this word would be curious about)  
    I hear (something this word would hear)  
        I see (an imaginary sight)  
I want (an actual desire this word might have)  
    I am (repeat the first line)

I pretend (something this word would pretend to do)  
    I feel (a feeling about something imaginary)  
I touch ( an imaginary touch that this word might touch)  
    I worry (something that worries this word)  
    I cry (something that would make this word sad)  
    I am (repeat the first line)

I understand (something that this word has found to be true)  
    I say (something that this word believes)  
    I dream (something he/she dreams of)  
I try (something the word would make an effort about)  
    I hope (something this word hopes for)  
    I am (repeat the first line)

**Write your own on a separate sheet of paper.**

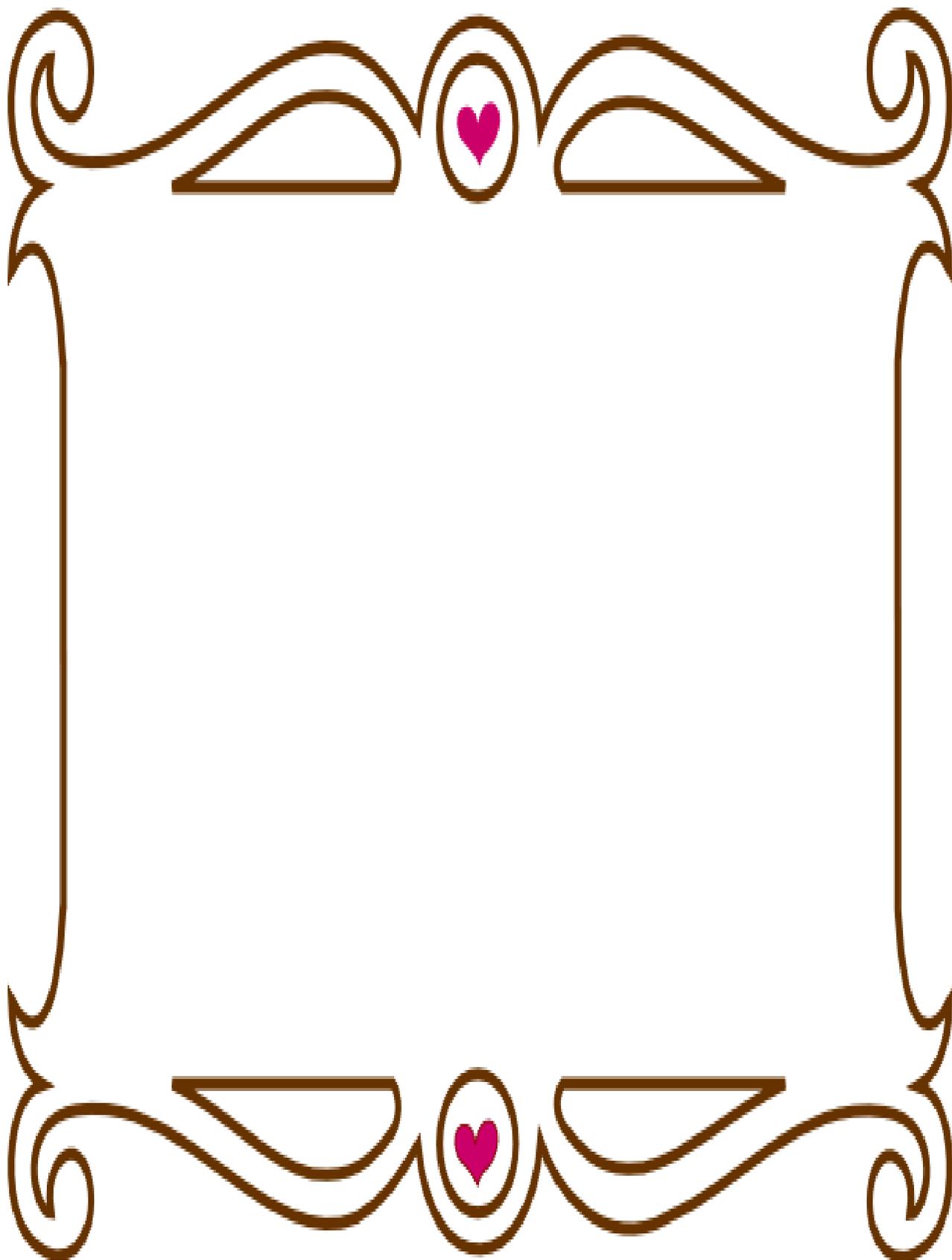
# Sample “I Am” Poem

I am Valentine’s Day  
I wonder if love will prevail  
I hear the sound of Cupid’s arrows  
I see the world through rose colored glasses  
I want to show everyone just how much I care  
I am Valentine’s Day

I pretend that I do not make anyone sad  
I feel bad for those who are single.  
I touch the thorns on roses  
I worry about the lonely widow  
I cry for those who have never liked me  
I am Valentine’s Day

I understand that love will keep us alive  
I say “Our song is a slamming screen door”  
I dream of a crazy little thing called love  
I try singing I just called to say I love you  
I hope I will always love you  
I am Valentine’s Day

Write your final "I Am" poem inside the frame.



# Valentine's Day Cinquain



**Cinquain:** a poem containing five lines

Write a cinquain poem about a feeling or object associated with Valentine's Day. The cinquain format and topic suggestions are listed below.

## Cinquain Poem Format

Line 1: a noun

Line 2: two adjectives to describe the noun in line one

Line 3: three -ing verbs

Line 4: a phrase describing the noun in line one

Line 5: a synonym for the noun in line one

## Suggestions:

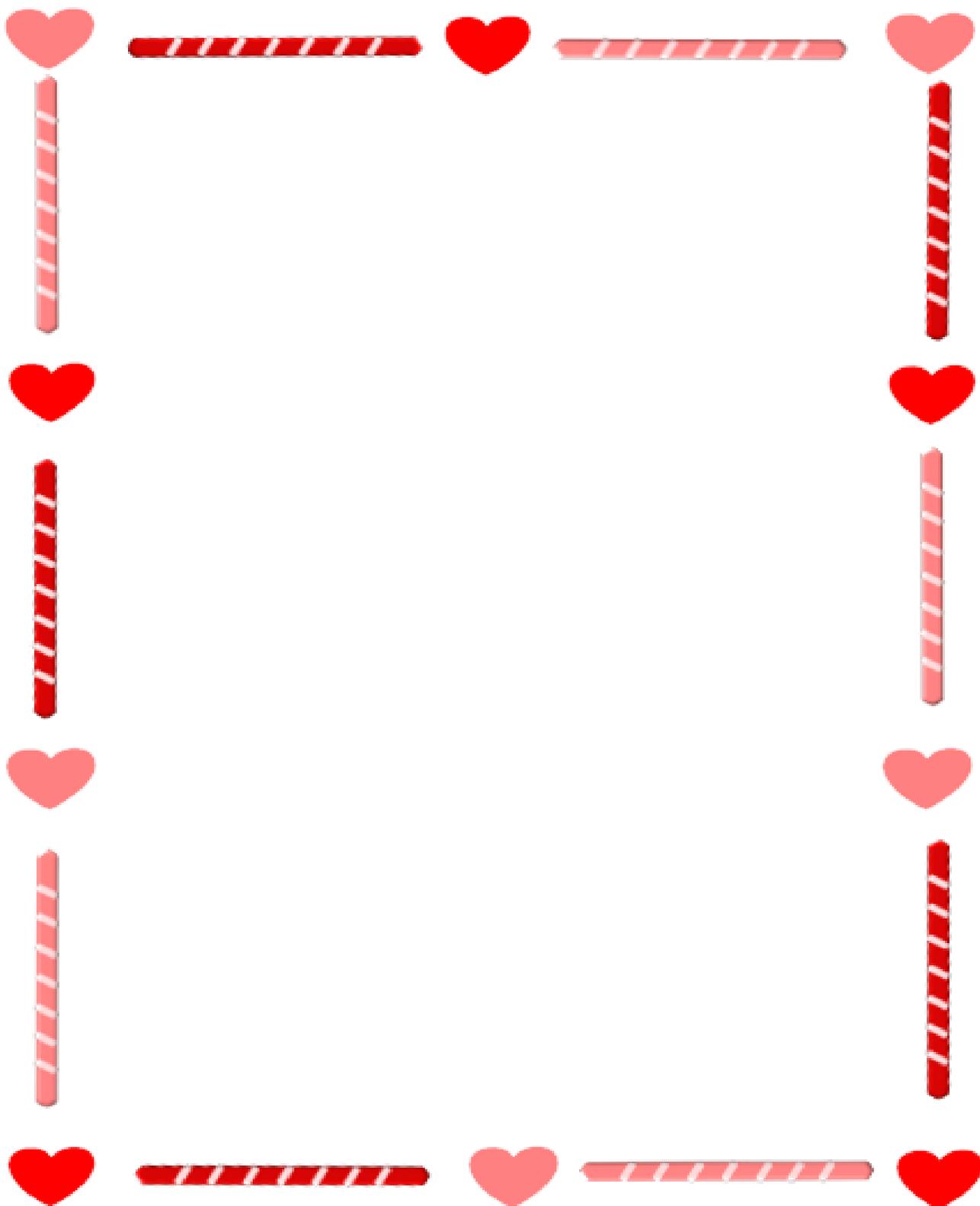
Love

Heart

Relationships

Heartbreak

Write your cinquain in the frame below.



# Conversation Heart Haiku



A Haiku is a Japanese form of poetry. A haiku uses just a few words to capture a moment and create a picture in the reader's mind.

Traditionally, a haiku is written in three lines, with five syllables in the first line, seven syllables in the second line, and five syllables in the third line. Also, traditional haiku poems are about something in nature and do not rhyme and do not contain metaphors. Today, let's write a traditional haiku using the conversation hearts that are so popular on Valentine's Day. We are breaking the rules a little because candy is not something found in nature, but we will keep the other rules.

## Rules for traditional Haiku

**Three lines**

**Five syllables in line one**

**Seven syllables in line two**

**Five syllables in line three**

**No rhyme**

**No metaphors**

You will be given a conversation heart. Whatever it says must be somewhere in your poem. Try writing two or three haiku in the box below. The best haiku have surprising or fresh lines at the end. Try making the third line of your haiku something unexpected. Choose your favorite one to write on the heart.

# Conversation hearts

Teachers, if you don't have time to buy conversation heart candy, you can use these cutouts.



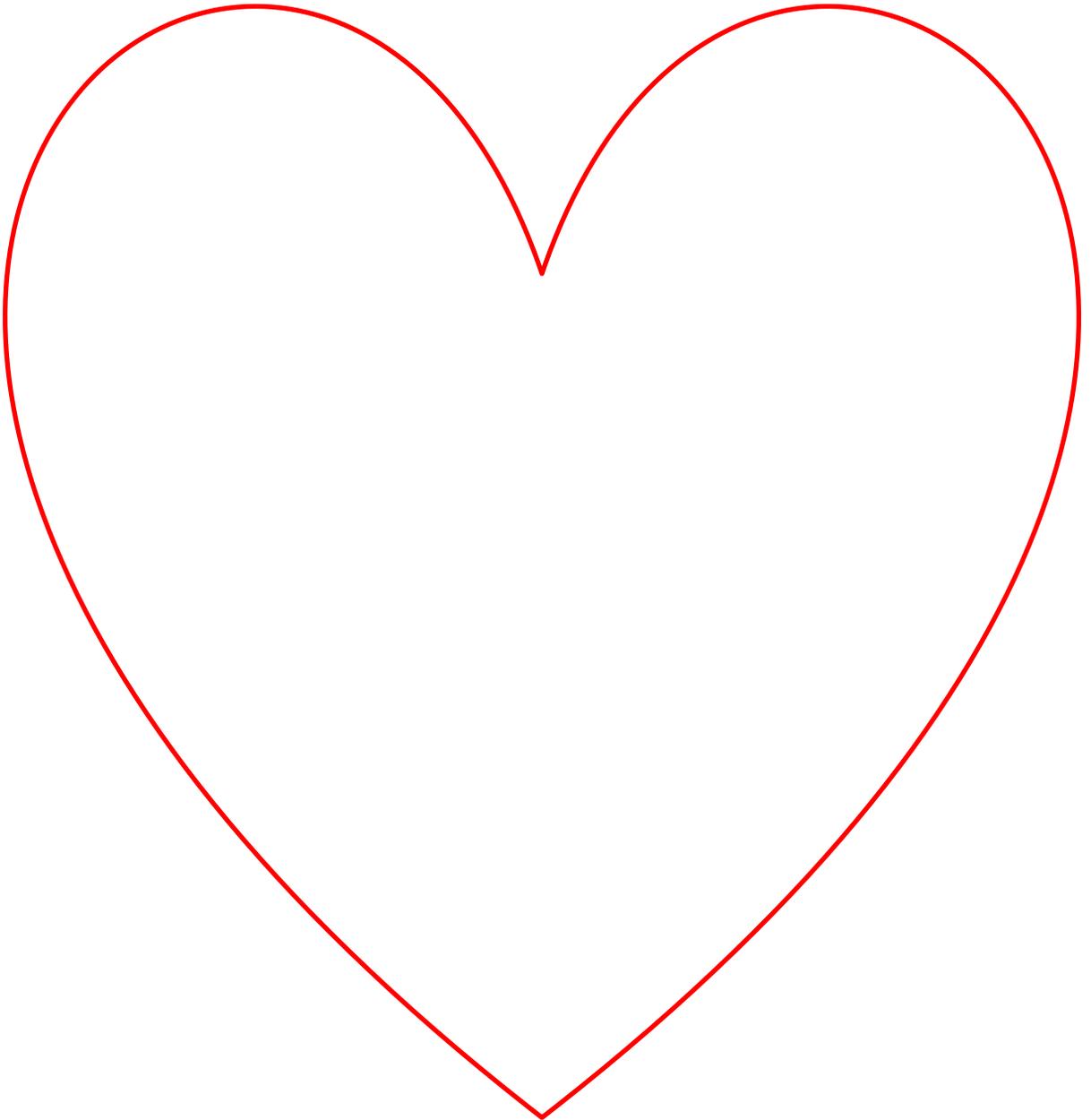
# Conversation Heart Haiku Sample

This Valentine's Day  
I'll say, "Be mine" to my love  
Oreos with milk!



Write your best haiku inside the heart.

## Valentine's Day Haiku



Valentine's Day  
Homework Pass  
From Your  
Teacher



Name \_\_\_\_\_

Valentine's Day  
Homework Pass  
From Your  
Teacher



Name \_\_\_\_\_

Valentine's Day  
Homework Pass  
From Your  
Teacher



Name \_\_\_\_\_

Valentine's Day  
Homework Pass  
From Your  
Teacher



Name \_\_\_\_\_

# We hope you enjoyed this Valentine's Day packet!

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We have tons of resources for ELA teachers including [novel units](#), [short story lessons](#), [writing activities](#), and [Common-Core bell ringer activities](#). You can print free samples from all of these online teaching materials!

Happy Teaching! 😊

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