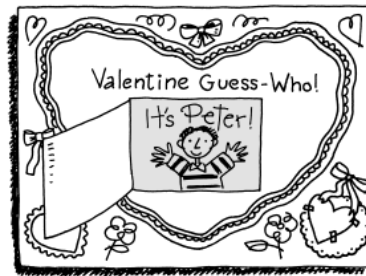


Valentine Guess-Who!

Each child makes a panel for this write-and-read valentine banner. Make a class set of the banner template on page 10. Give each child a secret valentine. Have children write the name of their secret valentine at the top of the banner pattern. Have them fill in a clue about themselves as indicated. Guide children in following these directions.

- ☉ Cut the secret flap door on the dotted lines and fold it back.
- ☉ Glue a piece of light-colored construction paper on the back of the heart so that it covers the opening of the door.
- ☉ Draw a picture of yourself and write your name on the construction paper.
- ☉ Close the door and decorate it with bits of paper, ribbon, doilies, foil, and other craft materials.
- ☉ Cut out the heart. Glue it to a sheet of construction paper and decorate.



Have children put their completed panels together to make a banner by taping them side to side. Display on a wall or in the hallway. Let children find their names on the banner, then use the clues to guess their secret valentines!

Adapted from *30 Instant Collaborative Classroom Banners* by Deborah Schecter (Scholastic Professional Books, 1999).

"Be Mine" Word Wall

How can you teach phonics, spelling, and conventions of language in one activity? Make a word wall! Word walls offer readily available support to readers and writers, and let you teach skills in a meaningful context. February's favorite words are just right for a word wall.

Start by letting children suggest words they associate with Valentine's Day, or words they want to include in Valentine messages. Record these on a chart. Look to the list as a source of mini-lessons. For example, starting with Valentine's Day, you can teach conventions (using capital letters and apostrophes). You may find other words on the list that lend themselves to phonics lessons. For example, if someone suggests the word *rose*, you might teach the phonogram *-ose* (*those*, *hose*, *nose*, *chose*, *close*, and so on). As the list grows from one day to the next, be on the lookout for other opportunities to teach with the word wall.



To learn more about teaching with word walls, see *Teaching Reading and Writing With Word Walls* by Janiel M. Wagstaff (Scholastic Professional Books, 1998).

Valentine Guess-Who!

To _____

Who's your secret valentine?

Read this clue:



Now open this door . . .

Guess who!