

ONE ZILLION VALENTINES

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Book by Frank Modell

Themes: Valentine's Day/Friendship

Grade Level: K - 3

Running Time: 6 minutes

SUMMARY

Marvin and his friend Milton know that in order to get a valentine, you have to give one. So they make a zillion—and have enough to give away, enough to sell, and even a special one to share with each other.

OBJECTIVES

- Children will learn about Valentine's Day
- Children will explore the idea of giving and receiving
- Children will exercise their creative thinking skills

BEFORE VIEWING ACTIVITIES

Discuss the things children enjoy about Valentine's Day. **Ask:** What is your favorite thing to give on this special day? What do you enjoy receiving? Have children take turns guessing about the origin of Valentine's Day. Then share some information about the beginnings of Valentine's Day, including the idea that it began with the ancient Roman feast of Lupercalis and later was associated with the feast day of two Roman martyrs, both of whom had the name of Saint Valentine.

Collect and share a wide variety of valentines with children, including old fashioned valentines, humorous valentines, and hand-made valentines. Have children take turns choosing their favorite valentine from the collection and explaining their choices to their classmates. **Ask:** Where have you seen some of these valentines? Which do you think were the most difficult to make? Which valentines make you feel the happiest?

Share the book *One Zillion Valentines* with children. **Then ask:**

- What kind of a person was Marvin? Milton?
- How are Marvin and Milton similar? How are they different?
- How do you think the people in the neighborhood felt about Marvin and Milton after they distributed the valentines? How do you think Marvin and Milton felt about distributing them?
- What special thing did Milton do for his friend Marvin at the end of the story? How do you think this made Marvin feel?

AFTER VIEWING ACTIVITIES

Talk with children about the different kinds of mail they receive. Encourage them to describe either their favorite item that arrived via mail, or something they'd wish to receive in the mail. Review the mailing process with children. If possible, visit a post office where each step of the mailing process can be described and shown. Have children write notes to their parents or family members and actually stamp and mail them.

Provide construction paper, scissors, paste, crayons, markers, and glitter that children can use to create their own valentines to give to friends or family members. As children work, emphasize that each valentine is special in its own way. When finished, talk with children about their reasons for creating their valentines as they did. Encourage them to describe the things they especially like about their creations.

Collect books of poetry, including Valentine's Day related verse, from your school or local library and keep them in a handy place where children can enjoy them at their leisure. Then share some simple rhymes appropriate for valentine's day with children. Encourage

children to share their opinions about the rhymes. Then provide paper and pencils children can use to write or dictate valentine rhymes of their own.

Remind children of the many different kinds of giving and receiving activities that took place in the story. **Then ask:**

- How do you feel when you give someone a gift?
- How does it feel to receive a special gift from someone?
- How does it feel to receive a gift that is hand made?
- What is your favorite kind of gift?
- Does a gift have to be an object? What other kinds of gifts can you give and receive?

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by Chief Jake Swamp, illus. by Erwin Printup, Jr.

• IN THE MONTH OF KISLEV

by Nina Jaffe, illus. by Louise August

• MAX'S CHOCOLATE CHICKEN

by Rosemary Wells

• MAX'S CHRISTMAS

by Rosemary Wells

• MORRIS'S DISAPPEARING BAG

by Rosemary Wells

• SEVEN CANDLES FOR KWANZA

by Andrea Davis Pinkney, illus. by Brian Pinkney

• THE CLOWN OF GOD

by Tomie dePaola

• THE NIGHT BEFORE CHRISTMAS

by Clement Clarke Moore,
illus. by Ruth Sanderson