

1. READ THE TEXT AND FOCUS ON CONNECTIONS

- You are going to read a text, entitled *Happy Valentine's Day*.
What do you know about Valentine's Day? Do you celebrate Valentine's Day yourself?
Discuss in a small group.
- Read the text *Happy Valentine's Day* at a quick pace. Don't focus too much on unfamiliar words. When you are finished, read the explanation.

EXPLANATION

In a text, you find a lot of information. All this information is related: it has something to do with the subject of the text, one way or another. A writer uses **conjunctions** (words like *and*, *or*, *but*) to show you what the **connection** between the various information is. This helps you to understand a text better. Conjunctions give you a signal that you need to pay attention, because there is a connection coming up. That is why we also call them **signal words**.



For example:

*I'm not going to bake a cake today, **because** I need to go grocery shopping first.*

The conjunction **because** tells you that there is a **reason** why you cannot bake a cake today. The reason is that you have to go grocery shopping first.

Some of these **connections** are:

enumeration	and, also, or, moreover
reason	because, because of, as, since
examples	for example, for instance, such as, e.g.
time	after, as soon as, while, since, before, until, recently, at the moment, when
contrast	but, however, still, though, although, nevertheless, yet, whereas, rather, on the one hand...on the other hand
conclusion	so, in short, consequently, thus, therefore
condition	if, unless, when

- Now read the text *Happy Valentine's Day* with other classmates, carefully. Underline or mark all the signal words you come across while reading.
When you have finished reading, answer questions 4 to 10.
- Note all the conjunctions of time (in many cases more than one word!) that can be found in this text. Don't forget to add the line numbers.

5. 'The Roman Emperor Claudius II had banned marriage *since* he felt that it turned men into poor soldiers' (line 10-12).'

(a) What kind of connection does this sentence contain?

(b) Can you give a synonym of 'since'?

6. In the paragraph titled 'St. Valentine' you can find another conjunction, besides 'since'. Which conjunction?

7. Can you reformulate the following sentence: 'He secretly and illegally wed couples so that they could live together honestly by the Church' (line 16-19). Tip: cut the sentence into two sentences.

8. Can you find a conjunction in the text which signals *opposition*?

9. The last paragraph, 'Tips for Valentine's Day' contains a few 'enumerations'. What words are used to signal these enumerations?

10. What signal word could be added in the last sentence of the text? Write the whole sentence.

2. FROM VALENTINE TO VALENTINE'S DAY

This week's text tells you the story of Valentine's Day. It tells you:

- (1) Where the day finds its origins ('the story of St. Valentine').
- (2) How the day developed in the 18th and 19th century.
- (3) How the day is celebrated today.

Gather the information about the above stages from the text and fill in the table below. Give the best possible overview of the development of Valentine's Day. Use your own words, and ask yourself: *who, what, when, where, why* and *how*.

VALENTINE'S DAY	
Third Century (AD): the story of St. Valentine	<p>.....</p> <p>.....</p> <p>.....</p> <p>.....</p>
The development of Valentine's Day in the 18th and 19th century	<p>.....</p> <p>.....</p> <p>.....</p> <p>.....</p>
The present celebration of Valentine's Day	<p>.....</p> <p>.....</p> <p>.....</p> <p>.....</p>

3. ANSWER THE QUESTIONS

1. Read the introductory sentence again: 'Valentine has come round again, ready to shower us with flowers, heart shaped sweets, chocolates, cards and other presents [...].'

Which of the following sentences expresses the meaning the best?

- A It is Valentine's Day again; many presents will be given on this day.
 - B It is Valentine's Day again; it's always raining this time of the year.
 - C It is Valentine's Day again; get ready quickly and take a good shower!
 - D It is Valentine's Day again, and we can choose from all kinds of presents.
2. What is 'a valentine' actually? Give a proper definition; make use of the text.

3. Valentine was a Christian priest and the pope granted him the title 'Saint'. Why do you think Valentine got this title? Try and give different reasons.

4. 'Valentine's Day is the second most popular day of the year for sending cards, second only to Christmas' (line 45-47). What does this mean?
- A Valentine's Day is the most popular day of the year, but Christmas holds the record for sending cards.
 - B Christmas Day is the most popular day of the year, but Valentine's Day is the most popular day for sending cards.
 - C Valentine's Day is the most popular day of the year for sending cards, with Christmas in the second place.
 - D Christmas Day is the most popular day of the year for sending cards, Valentine's Day comes second place.

5. In the paragraph 'A commercial success' three stages are mentioned of Valentine's Day going commercial. Note the three stages.

(1) _____

(2) _____

(3) _____

6. What can you give to a good friend on Valentine's Day? How can you indicate you are not a secret admirer of him or her?

7. What three ways are there of 'making your valentine a bit out of the ordinary' (line 66-67)?

8. What do you think a '*Roses are red, violets are blue* poem' (line 71) is?

9. What do you think of Valentine's Day? Do you like this special day, or not? Give reasons; be as clear as you can.

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LOVE POEMS FOR BEGINNERS

1. Read the following poems:

I'm In Love With You

It's the way you say I love you and the way you hold my hand
There's just so much about you I completely understand
It's the twinkle in your eye that I only see when you look at me
It's the warmth of your hands it sends a shock straight to my feet
It's how you always amaze me, you surprise me all day long
This I know is true
Baby, I'm in love with you!

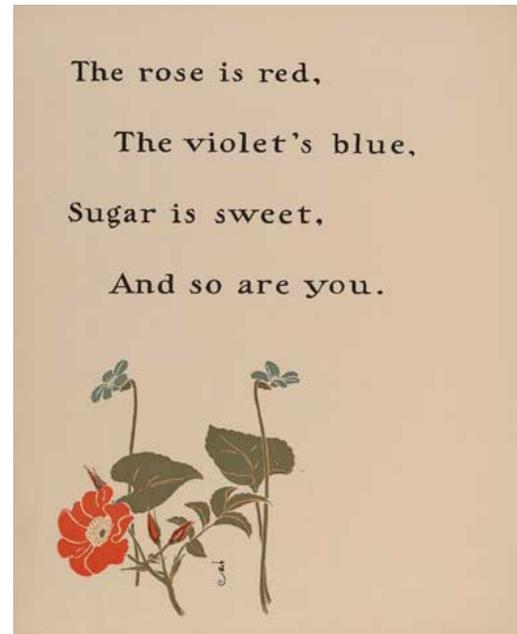
Meagan D. Murdoch

Be My Valentine Forever

I love you for a lifetime
Not only for a day
I love you for who you are
Not what you do or say

I love the way you love me back
So there is only one thing I can say
I love you baby with my heart and soul and every
other way
So will you be my valentine not only for one day.

Belinda Galea



What do you think of these poems? Do you like them?
Which one do you like best and why? Give three arguments.

2. Now, try and make a Valentine poem yourself. You may use the 'eleven' form. An 'eleven' poem is a poem that contains eleven words and five lines. Here is an example:

line 1: one word	<i>Oh</i>
line 2: two words	<i>My darling</i>
line 3: three words	<i>Please be mine</i>
line 4: four words	<i>Stay with me forever</i>
line 5: one special word to finish the poem	<i>Valentine!</i>

So, write your Valentine poem in the 'eleven' form. However, you may also choose your own poem form.

