



## **"CARD"-EOLOGY**

### **How to deliver clever, heartfelt Valentine's**

**By: Bruce Littlefield, Fun Expert**

In today's times if you have love in your life, it's time to celebrate it. With a little imagination, you can make your Valentines sweet and your love feel extra special without breaking your wallet.

Traditional cards are nice... but if you are giving a store bought card, underline the words in the card that really express how you feel and add a few sentimental lines of your own. A perfect handwritten thought can be simply "I love you because..." with a reason or two. TIP: Valentine's Day is a great time to send a little love to those people you got Christmas cards from, but didn't send them to.

Homemade cards are keepsakes. Here are a few ideas for cards that are fun to can create yourself:





**The Write Note:** These pencil-pierced Valentines are perfect targets for classmates and friends. Cut out cardboard or cardstock hearts by making a heart template that your kids can trace around. Let them decorate with markers and write the names of their friends. Use a hole punch to make a hole on each side of the heart and slide a pencil through it. For added fun, make the pencil look like an arrow by hot gluing a triangle of paper onto the tip and a fringed piece of paper onto the eraser as the fletching. TIP: This special Valentine can hit the perfect bulls-eye for an entire classroom for only a couple of dollars.



**Message in a Bottle:** Any cleaned bottle or jar with a cap or cork can be a unique vessel for sweet sentiments. Simply fill the bottle with your loved one's favorite small candies (such as jelly beans, cinnamon dots, or conversation hearts) and paint or glue on decorations. Or, instead of candy, fill a medicine or plastic water bottle with love notes

or IOUs written on craft or popsicle sticks. Things like “a five minute back-rub” or “movie and a popcorn” can be taken once a day for long-lasting results. Whether filled with candy or sweet nothings, the message of this bottle is pure love. TIP: Ask your favorite restaurant to save you a pretty liquor bottle.

**Wrap it up:** For an added touch to presents, packages can be decorated with a love letter or great quotation. Use paint, markers, or your computer to print out a sweet thought. Perhaps tie up your package with a love note written on beautiful ribbon. Or simply run the ribbon across the front door, lay it on the bed, or leave it on the spool for your love to unwind. TIP: Pretty ribbon can be found at the dollar store.



**Chinese Take-Out:** It's an ancient Chinese secret that takeout containers are filled with good eats. For Valentine's Day decorate the plain white containers using markers, paint, or stickers and fill with favorite candy, chocolates, or some yummy treats for the family pet. TIP: This is a great gift for teachers too.



**Video Valentine:** Nothing says I love you more than “Will you be my Valentine?” that millions can see! Show your creative genius by recording a video and uploading it to YouTube, Myspace, or Facebook. For lasting memories, Kodak’s pocket video camera plugs right into your computer’s USB port allowing you to upload directly to YouTube. Check out my dog Westminster’s “Valentine to Sasha and Malia” Obama on YouTube. TIP: A music video makes a great Valentine or a wedding proposal!

Remember, we might not have a lot of time or money these days, but we still have a whole lot of heart and creativity is free. Happy Valentine’s Day! Show the love!

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