

# The Torch

## valentines edition

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Feb 14, 2022



Cover Art by Natalie Pak



## FEB 15TH: SINGLES AWARENESS DAY - SATIRE BY ELISSA

Attention all hopeless romantics, lovers, couples, and anyone else who may be reading! It's 2022 and you're looking for something new, but with it comes February and the most repetitive and pointless holiday of the year. February 14th: the day for lovers (not to mention the creepy man-baby angel following people around with a loaded bow and arrow). February is supposed to be a month of love and happiness, but you've begun to realize that Valentine's day is nothing like it's advertised.

I mean what kind of holiday is worth celebrating when you don't even get the day off? It's simply a consumerism trick: the key to love is money. But not all of us are billionaires. Valentine's Day is a time to prove how well you know your crush, or maybe get to know them better—she told you she wanted to play it cool this year, but she wrote you a card, got you that game, the audi r8 spyder, and that lightsaber you've always wanted. When she said she "didn't really want anything", what she really meant was that she *needed* those new pair of designer shoes she saw at the mall last Friday.

Valentine's day puts too much pressure on couples. *What kind of gift should I buy for my girlfriend this year? I'll just play it safe and buy her a box of chocolates.* I mean, does he not even remember that Hershey's chocolates may contain nuts?!? Is Valentine's a day of love? He doesn't even remember you're allergic.

So to those who are sick of the overused red and pink and are looking for something different this year, let me introduce you to February 15th: Singles Awareness Day. The recognized colour of this holiday is blue, since research has shown that blue is everyone's favourite colour. So why should you celebrate this fantastic holiday?

February 15th is the day to put yourself first. After surviving the horrible day before, you deserve to take time off for yourself. Self care is very important. So buy yourself that peanut free chocolate at half price that you can actually eat. Rewrite the story. Be your own Romeo. Except this time, nobody dies of anaphylaxis.

You don't have to worry about pleasing anyone. If you decide to spend this holiday alone crying on the couch, rewatching *The Notebook* all day with a tub of ice cream in hand, good for you! However, you can also choose to do it with some friends. Those who won't judge you for crying are the friends you'll want to keep for life.

And to the couples who are still reading, if your significant other did not get you the gift you wanted, you can always join the rest of us on Singles Awareness Day. But regardless of whether you celebrate Valentine's Day, Singles Awareness Day, something else, neither, or both, I hope you all have a great day. Merry Christmas everyone.

## VALENTINE'S LETTER POEM

BY ISABELLA DE SOUSA  
& HERMIONE SZETO

Dear Gabriel,

I don't know what to write to you,  
But this will do:

"Roses are red,  
Violets are blue,  
You're kind and nice,  
And I love you."

This saying is my favourite thing,  
Because it makes me feel like  
I'm your queen and you're my king.  
I love you with all my heart.  
So much that I couldn't bear to be  
apart.

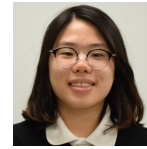
Oh where, oh where does this love  
come from?  
Could it be the love songs I hum?  
No, this was never meant to be,  
Because I love you, but you don't  
like me.

This is the last thing I say  
Happy Valentine's Day!

Sincerely,  
Nini



## LOVE, LOVE, AND LOVE SOME MORE! BY SALLY



Valentine's Day is all about being loved and showing love to your loved ones. But have you ever thought about who loves you the most in this world, or even the universe? I John 4:8 says, "Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love." God is full of love and He loves each one of his children equally. God does not leave anyone out to be lonely, instead, He fills everyone with His unending love and grace. We would not know the true meaning of love if it wasn't for God

Love is defined in I Corinthians 13:4-8. It says, "Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It does not dishonour others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered,

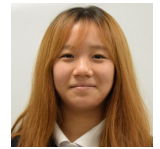
it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres. Love never fails." When we think of love, many understand it as giving gifts or spending quality time together. However, God describes love in this way, and He tells us that He Himself is love. God possesses all those qualities listed above and expresses them to everyone.

God is always patient and kind. He always waits for us no matter how many times we sin or turn away from God; He does not keep record of our wrongs. Instead, He is always forgiving, trusting, and persevering. God's love is so perfect, that no other love in this world can compare.

We can take God's example of how He shows love and express it to those around us. It might be a good idea to start with those close around you, because those are ones that you often miss!

John 3:16 says that "God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son." Every one of us who believes in Him now has eternal life because of his unmatched love for each of us. C. S. Lewis once said, "He died not for men, but for each man. If each man had been the only man made, He would have done no less." So, for this year's Valentine's Day, do not only focus on earthly relationships, but also focus on God, who loves fully and perfectly more than we could ever imagine.

## SPREADING LOVE THROUGH MUSIC AND POEMS BY LUCY



Many people enjoy listening to music all the time. Research proves that when you listen to music you like, your brain releases dopamine, a "feel-good" neurotransmitter. When words are hard to find, people express themselves with music and lyrics.

Playing a few love songs can set the mood for Valentine's Day. One of the most famous songs from the 1960s is "Can't help falling in love" by Elvis Presley. Haley Reinhart made an absolutely beautiful cover of this song as well. In the 1990s, Whitney Houston's "I Will Always Love You" topped the Billboard Hot 100 for fourteen consecutive weeks. "My Heart Will Go On," the theme song of the movie "Titanic" sung by Canadian songstress Celine Dion is another huge hit of the 1990s. In recent years, "Perfect" has become the perfect romantic song for Valentine's Day. Ed Sheeran's calm voice perfectly conveys his love in this song. "Love story" by

Taylor Swift is a Romeo and Juliet-inspired song. Many couples propose to their significant others when the line "will you marry me?" plays.

Grade eleven student Denise Chan said her favourite love song is "Lucky" by Jason Mraz. "I really like this song because I listened to it a lot growing up. It's very nostalgic," she said. Grade 9 students Jacob Day and Emma Esho, both prefer listening to Steve Lacy. Emma really likes "Dark Red" - the song title refers to dark red lipstick which is a shade that represents a girl's confidence.

Did you know that many song lyrics can be considered poems? "How Do I Love Thee?" or "Sonnet 43" is a poem by Elizabeth Barrett Browning about intense love. She describes how she loves her husband Robert and lists the many ways she loves him. Another type of poetry is spoken word poems. Rudy Francisco is a poet and he actually performs the poems he has written. He wrote "Starbucks" to commu-

nicate his love for the girl who works at Starbucks.

Love has its own meaning to all of us and Valentine's Day is all about love and the hope it brings. I Corinthians 16:14 says, "Let all that you do be done with love." This Valentine's Day, show some affection by sharing your favourite song or poem with others; maybe they will enjoy it as much as you do!





BY PAOLO AND AMANDA

### ♥ If you had an unlimited budget, what's the first thing you'd purchase?

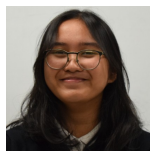
**He says...** A better computer to game and watch anime on or a personal driver who drives me to and from school.

**She says...** Haha I'd love to have a personal driver to and from school. Public transit in winter is no joke. However, why would I need a personal driver if I had the money to buy a new house nearer to the school?

### ♥ If you were granted the ability to be immediately made good at one thing, what would it be?

**He says...** I would like to be professionally good at soccer so I'm able to get an extremely large paycheck for something I enjoy doing.

**She says...** I'd like to be good at playing the piano. I did when I was younger, but stopped. I wish more than anything that I had continued. I think the instrument is beautiful, and wish I could enjoy the music it produces while playing.



## WHO IS CUPID? BY NEZRA

Valentine's Day is a holiday filled with a variety of symbols including red and pink hearts, chocolates, flowers, and lovebirds. But there is another symbol often associated with this holiday. Every February, a winged baby named Cupid makes his appearance. But who is he and how did he become known as a symbol of Valentine's Day?

When you ask someone what they know of Cupid, the first image that comes to mind is of a winged baby carrying a golden bow and arrow. But what are his origins? In Roman mythology, according to museum-

hack.com, Cupid means "to desire". In Greek Mythology, according to museumhack.com and britannica.com, he is known as Eros the son of Mercury, the winged messenger god, and Venus, the goddess of love. Cupid was very loyal and obedient towards his mother and created love matches according to her wishes. He was generally seen as a kind character who wanted to bring couples together, but would sometimes do mischievous things when his mother asked him to. As the god of affection, he was both handsome and threatening due to his ability to make others fall in love, ac-

### ♥ Where would you go on a first date?

**He says...** A carnival or an amusement park, the rides and constant distraction would probably not make it awkward, and while you line up you can discuss things. Maybe enjoy some food while you wait. Plus it would make for a pretty memorable first date going to an amusement park you've never been to before.

**She says...** I'd like to go for coffee or lunch. I think that first dates can be a little awkward, so I'd like to be in a quiet place where I'd be able to have a conversation. Also, going for coffee or lunch is a good idea because it keeps things short and simple. If the date is a whole day, I think it would be either hit or miss. I wouldn't want it to be uncomfortable for either person, so I would start with something small.

### ♥ Who should pay?

**He says...** The boy but by the time you reach like the third date it should start to become that the partner pays for a few things while you pay for most.

**She says...** Whoever brings up the idea for the date should be the one to pay. I don't think guys should be expected to pay more in a relationship, and I wouldn't expect that of them. For the most part, I'd want to split the costs evenly.

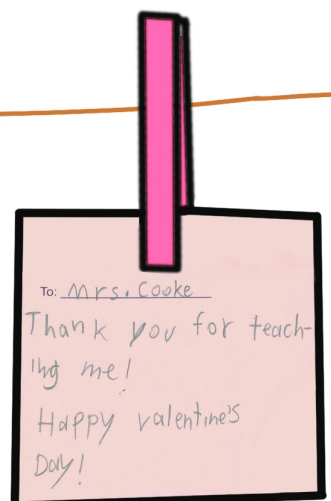
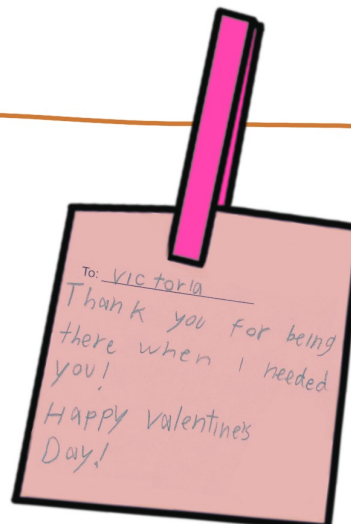
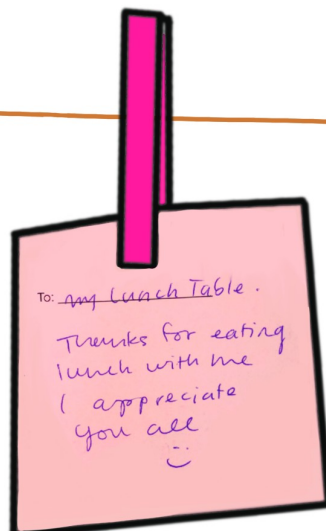
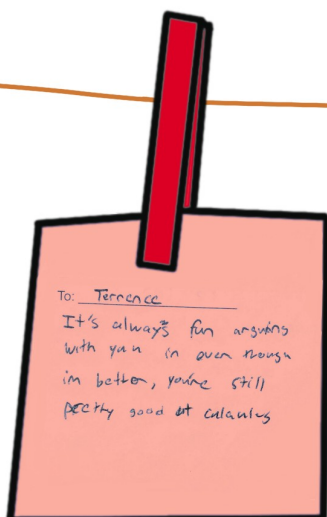
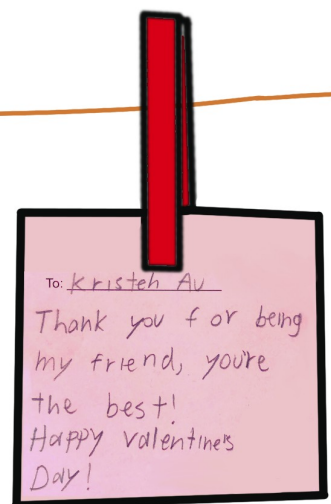
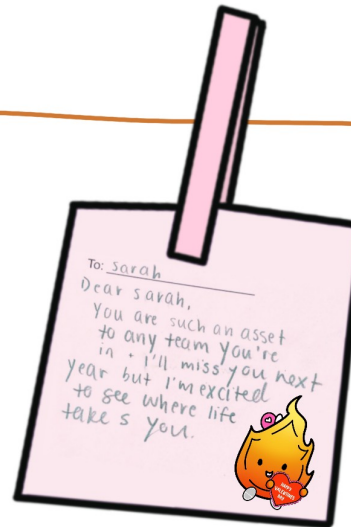
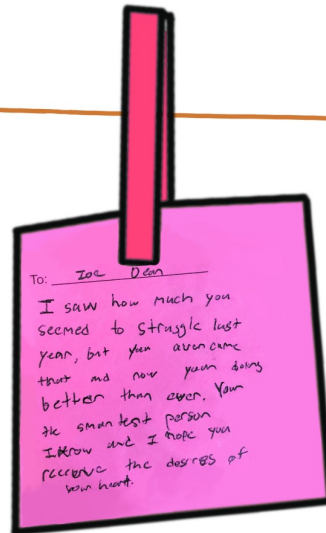
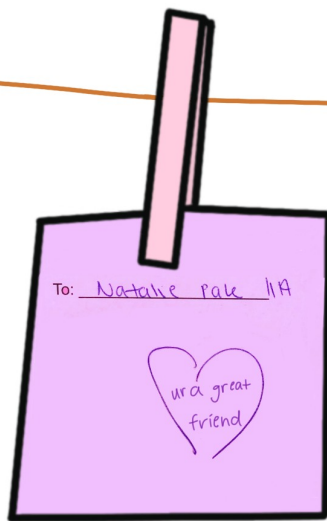
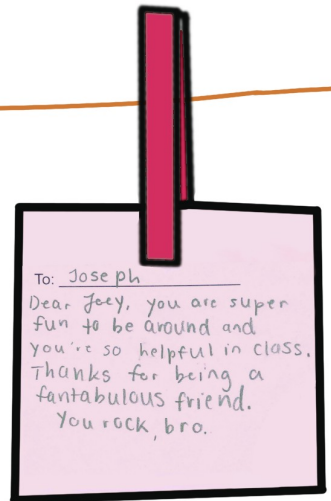
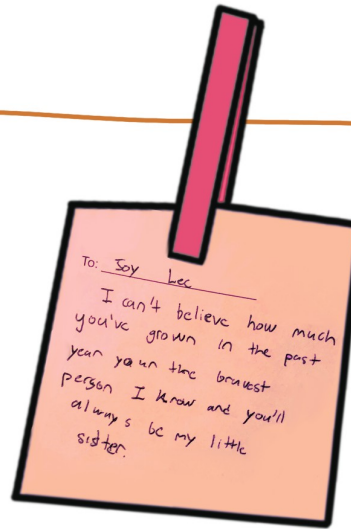
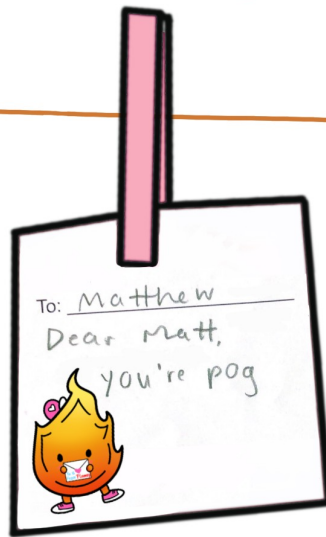
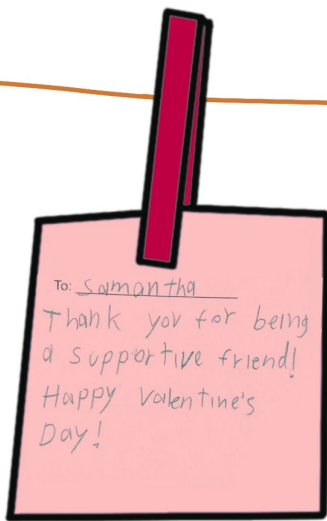
cording to time.com. Today he is usually portrayed as a naked baby because he is pure and innocent, according to museumhack.com.

Valentine's Day was popular back in the 18th century, so being the god of affection, Cupid automatically became an image for Valentine's Day. Chocolates, flowers, candlelit dinners, and Cupid fit perfectly into the love-filled season. Now that you know who Cupid is, may his arrow pierce the heart of someone you love. <3





# Encouragement Notes



# SPOT THE DIFFERENCES



Find 10 differences in these two photos. Submit your list (fill out the pink slip inside this Torch—put your name on it) to Ms. Leung in the office by Wed Feb 16 @ 3:30 pm. All 100% correct entries will go into a basket for a draw. We will draw three names for prizes and announce them on Thurs Feb 17.



## PEARL GIVING BY MICHAEL SAWIRES

It was the day of pearl giving,  
A pearl and kind words from our hearts.  
We swim around in gladness,  
A group of dolphins in the ocean.

Swimming side by side,  
Dancing in the waves,  
One dolphin drifts alone,  
Like a lonely cloud in the sky.

The feeling in her heart,  
It weighed her down,  
Like an anchor of a ship,  
Falling into the sea bed.

She gets no pearl,  
Drowning in the current,  
She drifts alone,  
Like a lonely cloud in the sky.

Then up on the top,  
A dolphin hears a voice,  
Diving to the bottom of the ocean,  
He sees the love of his dreams.

He asked her why her tears,  
Streamed right down her cheeks,  
Those round, shiny droplets,  
Flowing away in the ocean.

She told him she got no pearl,  
No gifts did she receive.  
She gave all the pearls she had,  
It was the day of giving.

He took one of his pearls,  
The shiniest one of all,  
He gave it to her,  
With pleasure and delight.

She was struck with amazement,  
She had never received a jewel,  
It was a pearl on the day of pearl giving,  
And it was the shiniest one of all.

Together they floated to the top,  
Diving, dancing, and swirling,  
They laughed, and giggled, and swam,  
Up until they reached the top.

There they met their pod,  
Of whom was waiting for them,  
Then they started playing,  
Many dolphin games.

They kept on having fun,  
Until the sun went down,  
Then they all went to bed,  
Saying, "Happy Valentine's Day!"

## GUESS WHAT? IT'S VALENTINES DAY!

BY EMILY WAN



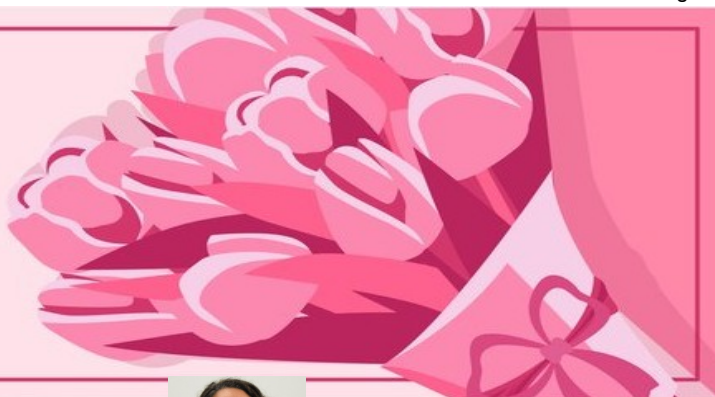
Hearts, ribbon, even candy,  
Pink, red, and white,  
Make your cards, that all say,  
Guess what? It's Valentine's Day!

Glitter, bows, and butterflies,  
A bake sale too.  
Put your goodies on display,  
Guess what? It's Valentine's Day!

Friendship, love, and lots of fun,  
Dress like a twin,  
Chase away, all the grey,  
And Guess what? It's Valentine's Day!



# • HAPPY • Valentine's Day



## WORLD EXPRESSIONS OF LOVE BY JOY-MARIE

Love is a universal concept that is expressed around the world. However, how love is expressed differs between different cultures and countries. Let's take a trip and see how love is shown around the world.

In Canada, love is celebrated on Valentine's Day which is February 14th. It is common for those who like each other to get flowers, chocolates, and different gifts to express their love and gratitude for each other. However, not all countries celebrate Valentine's Day the same way.

According to datenightguide.com, in South Korea, February 14th is not the only day that love is celebrated. It is also expressed on the 14th of every month. Valentine's Day is on February 14th, and on this day, the women give chocolate to the men. In return, the men give them chocolate not on Valentine's Day, but on White Day (March 14th). And, for all the single people who didn't receive treats, they go to restaurants and eat jajangmyeon (black noodles) on Black Day (April 14th).

Norwegians express love in a different way. People who secretly like someone will send funny little poems called "gaekkebrev" to the other person. The poem won't have their name on it, only a dot representing each letter of their name. If the person guesses who the secret admirer is, they get an Easter egg on Easter. If they fail to guess who the person is, the secret admirer reveals themselves. The person who receives the poem then has to give the secret admirer an Easter egg.

Norway is not the only country that gives gifts to their secret admirers. In Wales, men carefully carve spoons for the woman that they are interested in. The designs they make on the spoons are symbolic and, a lot of times, they have hidden clues, according to the writers of datenightguide.com.

Food can also be used to express love in many different countries. In Germany, people get a giant heart-shaped gingerbread with a ribbon attached to give to the one they like. The ribbon attached to the gingerbread is draped around the shoulders of the recipient. Another food tradition is in Iraq. They have a feast of love and

decorate the feast with apples. The apples represent the original love story of Adam and Eve, although the apple symbolizes prosperity and love, not the banishment of perfection.

In Japan, according to wanderlust.com, love is also expressed through food. The women prepare elaborate lunch boxes for their loved ones. They also give home-made chocolates to those they like. The type of chocolate they give, depends on the level of affection the woman has for the person.

All of these traditions and customs are ways that people express their love for one another. It shows the appreciation that they have for having the other person in their lives. It is important to remember the meaning of all these traditions and to remember that the one who gave us the best gift was God. He gave us His Only Son because He loves us so much.

## SUDOKU

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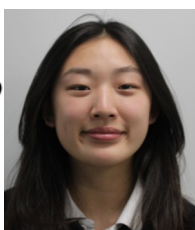
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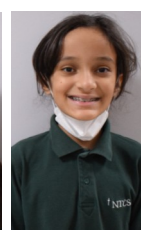


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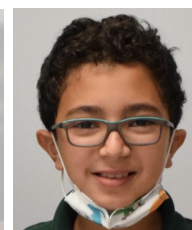
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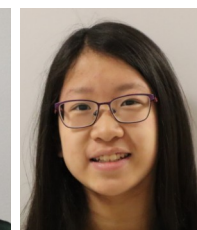
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