

Proofreading

Name _____ Date _____

VALENTINE'S DAY

Find the errors (punctuation, grammar, spelling, and capitalization) in the text. Use proofreader's marks in the left margin (or follow your teacher's instructions) to show the mistakes.

February 14th is Valentine's Day. Valentine's Day is a day for romance and love. Valentine's Day is celebrated in many countries around the world, including Japan, the United States, and the United Kingdom.

You see a lot of romantic symbols on Valentines' Day. For example, many couples give each other roses. To give someone flowers at any time of year is romantic. As roses are a symbol of romance, roses on Valentine's Day are especially popular.

Another symbol of romance that is seen frequently on Valentine's Day is Cupid. In Roman mythology, Cupid was the son of Venus, the goddess of love. Cupid often shown as a smaller, more playful version of his Mother. His golden arrows were magical: even slight contact with one of the arrow tips could make a person fall madly in love.

One understanding of romantic love—called courtly love—dates back to medieval times, and sending cards on Valentine's Day dates back equally as far. In 1415, a prisoner in the Tower of London send a poem to his wife. This is considered to be one of the earliest recorded valentines. For over four hundred years, people made their own valentines by writing poems like this.

In the Victorian era, in the mid-1800s, companies started producing valentines for people to buy. Now many people buy, rather than make, their valentines. Almost one billion valentines are sent every year. According to the Greeting Card Association, 85% of the valentines are bought by women.

Of course, people don't just buy cards. People buy candles and balloons and many other things, often in the shape of a heart. You can find boxes of candy that are shaped like hearts, or candy that is itself in the shape of a heart!

The present might be something small and sweet or something big and dramatic. Some people get engaged (promise to marry each other) on Valentine's Day. Although Valentine's Day is generally romantic, many people are like to use the day to celebrate any kind of love—including love of friends and family.