

VALENTINE'S DAY ELA ACTIVITIES

figurative language, rhetoric, theme, and novel activities

PRINT AND DIGITAL

could you really read...

LOVE STORY

DRAMA

THE HUNGER FOR MEMORY

TEACH

Seventh grade is supposed to be a game changer. And Keko thinks she's got it covered, especially with Audrey and Jenna lunch pals, and even hits up that cute new bubble tea place after school. Her life is ready to take off as they always hang out together until when Audrey decides they need boyfriends before fall ball. It looks like things may be changing in at the wrong ways. Jenna is sick of the drama, and soon Keko's battles with reality, leaving her heart in a tangle. In the end, she's dreaming about triple dates, fast kisses, and a really disbeliever she can't wait to see the final chapter. This thought was rock-solid, a blessing to Keko. Finally, she's about to be teaching.

Keko feels heart in two directions. Should she be with her friends — even if it means losing one of them — or her heart when it comes to flirting, friendships, and... well, she's a Keko supposed to keep it all together?

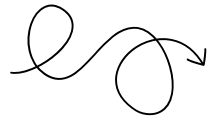
Discover
Drama

Running away
Fast-paced

Colie loves theater. And while she would totally try to out for her middle school's production of *Moan over Mississippi*, she can't really sing. *Moan over Mississippi*

and the crew... together? Not drama. This thought... even crasier!

A MIDDLE SCHOOL ELA



VALENTINE'S DAY ELA ACTIVITIES BUNDLE

This engaging seasonal unit gives students multiple ways to practice key ELA skills while keeping them hooked with Valentine's Day-themed texts, songs, and activities. With teacher guides, scaffolded practice, and ready-to-go student pages, you'll have everything you need to bring a little Valentine's Day season energy into your classroom—without sacrificing depth or rigor.

- ☒ **Valentine's Day Word Search** (color + black-and-white w/ answer key)
- ☒ **Figurative Language Activity** with Teacher guide, reference chart, student practice pages, and answer key.
- ☒ **Valentine's Day TV Commercials: Rhetorical Appeals** with Teacher guide, curated video links, reference pages (ethos, pathos, logos), and student analysis worksheets
- ☒ **Valentine's Songs Theme/Main Idea** with Teacher guide, curated playlist, and student lyric/theme analysis sheets
- ☒ **Love Story "Would You Rather Read..." Activity** with Teacher guide + slides and student response

Valentine's day-themed ELA activities bundle

This bundle of Valentine's Day-themed activities helps middle schoolers practice figurative language, rhetoric, theme, and independent reading skills, while keeping them engaged with seasonal texts, commercials, songs, and novels. With teacher guides, reference charts, and scaffolded practice, you'll have everything you need to make Valentine's Day both academic and fun.

✨ Here's what they'll learn:

- **Figurative Language Foundations:** Identify, explain, and create similes, metaphors, idioms, personification, irony, and more in Valentine's Day-themed sentences.
- **Rhetorical Appeals in Media:** Analyze how ethos, pathos, and logos are used in Valentine's Day commercials to persuade audiences.
- **Theme Through Music:** Listen to Valentine's Day season songs across genres and analyze lyrics for theme, imagery, and tone.
- **Independent Reading Choices:** Explore novels through "Would You Rather" activities that get students thinking critically about genre, plot, and style.

📖 Why this works:

Instead of random holiday worksheets, these activities combine seasonal engagement with real ELA skill-building. Students move from surface-level responses to deeper analysis using high-interest media and texts they can relate to. With built-in teacher guides, reference pages, and answer keys, you can run these activities with confidence and keep rigor high—even during chaotic Valentine's Day weeks.

💡 Perfect for:

- Teachers who want seasonal activities that *still hit standards*
- Students who need engaging, high-interest practice to stay motivated during Valentine's Day
- Any middle school ELA class looking to weave seasonal fun into figurative language, media analysis, and theme work

Teachers like you have said...



This resource cost me money! **After reading this, the students couldn't wait to read some of these novels.** I had a bunch in my library, but I ordered the rest quickly. When they came, my students couldn't wait to get their hands on the new books! That made my teacher heart happy!"
– Kingdom A.



My kids loved using this resource for their school day. **They were engaged in the resource and had no trouble getting started. It didn't take a lot of time to prepare this resource, so it was easy for to use quickly.** –Shannon H.



I love all of Martina's things! I bought this because my students loved the **similar packet she made with Valentines English activities** - I especially love the pick a book activity :) –Literary Jane



"I love all of Martina's resources, so when I heard she was making a Halloween DIGITAL activity, I had to jump on it! This was perfect for my students to do remotely. **They got to choose which activities they wanted to do, so I love the variety. Plus, most of these topics were already covered in class (thanks to her other units), so I didn't have to reteach anything!**"
–Christian B.



My students loved the "would you rather" horror book activity! Many of them found new books to try out and had fun discussing with one another why they would pick one over the other! –Niewo Knows Best



I used this mainly for the mood and tone tasks and it did not disappoint. **My students were so engaged and interested in these activities. Everything you do is GOLD.**" –Jennifer S.

MIDDLE SCHOOL VALENTINE'S DAY ELA ACTIVITIES

Figurative language, rhetoric, theme, and novel activities

VOLUME TWO



DIGITAL GOOGLE SLIDES LINKS:

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TEACHER GUIDES FOR EACH ACTIVITY

Includes teacher guides, activity materials, full-size reference materials, and student worksheets.

Teacher Guide Page Love Songs Theme Analysis

DISCLAIMER: I JUST PLAY THE SONGS. I DON'T SHOW THE VIDEOS. PREVIEW ALL VIDEOS AND SONGS BEFORE SHOWING OR PLAYING

Teacher Guide Page Valentine's Day Figurative Language

Teacher Guide Page: Valentine's Day Commercial Mood and Tone

Teacher Guide Page Love Songs Theme Analysis

Overview

This activity uses music with love vibes to help students practice theme analysis. Students will listen to short clips from a curated list of songs across genres, then analyze the lyrics for themes, imagery, and seasonal connections.

Disclaimer

I just play the songs. I don't show the videos.

Always preview all songs before playing to check for appropriateness in your classroom.

Why This Activity?

Music provides a powerful and relatable entry point for middle schoolers. Many songs use figurative language and emotional appeals that connect easily to literary analysis skills. Plus, the fall theme helps engage students in a seasonal and creative way.

Instructions

1. Introduce the Activity

- Explain that students will analyze the lyrics and overall theme of each song.
- Remind them to listen for imagery, figurative language, tone, and message.

2. Play Song Clips

- For time management, play only the first section up to the chorus.
- Pause after each clip for quick discussion or notes.
- Use teacher notes provided for any special start times or cautions.

3. Analyze Themes

Students can work individually, in pairs, or as a whole class to identify:

- What is the central theme or message of this song?
- How does it connect to fall, change, memory, or nostalgia?
- What figurative language devices stand out?

4. Wrap-Up Writing / Discussion

- Compare how different genres express similar themes of love.
- Optional writing prompt: Choose one song and explain how its theme connects to your own love experiences.

Differentiation Ideas

- Support:** Provide lyric excerpts or guiding questions.
- Challenge:** Ask students to compare a song to a poem or short story with a similar theme.
- Engagement:** Let students suggest and analyze their own love songs.

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Teacher Guide Page

Teacher Guide Page: Valentine's Day Commercial Rhetorical Appeals

Overview

This activity uses Valentine's Day commercials to teach students about rhetorical appeals (ethos, pathos, logos). Students will watch a curated selection of commercials and identify the appeals used.

Why This Activity?

There's something about the love of a good commercial.

Teacher Guide Page

Valentine's Day Commercial Rhetorical Appeals

Teacher Guide Page

Love/Romance Novel Would You Rather Read...

Overview

This activity helps students explore new novels while practicing decision-making and written explanation skills. Students read short synopses of two books, decide which one they would rather read, and explain their reasoning.

Why This Activity?

This "Would You Rather" structure builds buzz around independent reading by presenting students with real choices. It also encourages them to think critically about what draws them to a book—whether it's genre, plot, theme, or style.

Instructions

1. Introduce the Activity

- Show students the slides (included in a separate file).
- Each slide presents two novels with cover images and a synopsis.

2. Student Choice

- Students read both synopses.
- They choose which book they would rather read.
- They write a short explanation for their choice, citing something specific from the synopsis that appealed to them.

3. Optional Add-On

- If you have physical copies of the books, display them in the classroom.
- Encourage students to check them out or read them during the activity.
- Use this as a springboard into book talks, reading, or literature circles.

Differentiation Ideas

- Support:** Provide sentence starters like "I would rather read... because..."
- Challenge:** Ask students to connect the book or genre.
- Engagement:** Let students vote on the results on a class chart.

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PRINT AND
DIGITAL



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SIX VALENTINE'S DAY ELA ACTIVITIES

Name: _____ Date: _____

VALENTINE'S DAY COMMERCIALS MOOD AND TONE

Watch the Valentine's Day commercials and identify the mood and tone created in the beginning and identify the mood and tone that is created at the end of the commercials.

COMMERCIAL ONE

Prod:
Beg:
Exp:
End:
Ton:
Exp:
COM:
Prod:



Teacher Guide Page: Valentine's Day Commercial Mood and Tone

Overview

This activity uses Valentine's Day commercials to teach students how authors and creators establish **mood and tone**. Students will watch a curated selection of commercials and analyze how elements like lighting, music, color, pacing, and dialogue work together to create a specific feeling and attitude toward the subject.

Why These Commercials?

Name: _____ Date: _____

VALENTINE'S DAY COMMERCIALS RHETORICAL APPEALS

Watch the Valentine's Day commercials and identify the ethos, pathos, and logos used in each. Some may not have all three appeals, but think critically about how all three might be included.

COMMERCIAL ONE

Ethos:
Pathos:
Logos:
COMM:
Ethos:
Pathos:
Logos:
COMM:
Ethos:
Pathos:
Logos:



Teacher Guide Page: Valentine's Day Commercial Rhetorical Appeals

Overview

This activity uses Valentine's Day commercials to teach students about rhetorical appeals (ethos, pathos, logos). Students will watch a curated selection of commercials and analyze how companies use emotional connection, credibility, and logic to persuade their audience.

Why These Commercials?

There are tons of Valentine's Day commercials out there, but I selected these because they are appropriate for middle school and either don't require skipping—or I've noted which parts to avoid. **Teachers should always preview the commercials to ensure they work in their classroom setting.**

Instructions

- 1. Introduce Rhetorical Appeals**
Review ethos (credibility), pathos (emotions), and logos (logic) with examples.
- 2. Watch Commercials**
Provide students with the *Links Page* (below) so they can access the videos.
 - Option 1: Watch together as a class and pause to discuss.
 - Option 2: Assign in small groups or stations for independent analysis.
- 3. Analyze Appeals**
After each commercial, have students identify:
 - Which appeal(s) are used?
 - What specific techniques make it effective (music, narration, imagery, characters, etc.)?
 - How does the commercial connect to Valentine's Day or emotions?

Wrap-Up Discussion / Writing

Students reflect: Which rhetorical appeal seems most common in Valentine's Day commercials? Why might advertisers lean on that strategy during the holiday season?

Differentiation Ideas

- Advanced learners:** Compare the effectiveness of appeals across commercials.
- Support:** Provide sentence starters or a graphic organizer (e.g., "This commercial appeals to _____ because...").
- Cross-curricular:** Tie into media literacy or even economics (holiday spending).

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Name: _____ Date: _____

ANALYZING THE THEME OF LOVE SONGS

Listen to the famous love songs and/or read the lyrics and determine the theme and main idea of the music. Provide one piece of evidence (a song lyric) that proves your theme.

SONG ONE:

M:
Th:
Te:
So:
M:
Th:
Te:
So:



Teacher Guide Page: Love Songs Theme Analysis

Overview

This activity uses music with love vibes to help students practice theme analysis. Students will listen to short clips from a curated list of songs across genres, then analyze the lyrics for themes, imagery, and seasonal connections.

Disclaimer

I just play the songs. I don't show the videos.

Name: _____ Date: _____

DETERMINING THE TYPE OF FIGURATIVE LANGUAGE

Determine which type of figurative language is used and then explain its meaning or how it is that particular type of figurative language.



Teacher Guide Page: Valentine's Day Figurative Language

Overview

This activity helps students review and practice identifying types of figurative language in a Valentine's Day-themed context. Students will use a reference chart and apply their knowledge to sentences that include idioms, similes, metaphors, hyperboles, personification, irony, and more.

Why This Activity?

Middle schoolers often recognize figurative language when they hear it in conversation, songs, or commercials, but they struggle to label and explain it. This activity gives them seasonal, high-interest examples and plenty of practice connecting definitions with real usage.

Instructions

- 1. Introduce Figurative Language**
Use the reference chart (simile, metaphor, hyperbole, alliteration, onomatopoeia, personification, idioms, allusion, irony). Read through definitions and examples together.
- 2. Independent Practice**
Students complete the worksheet by:
 - Identifying the type of figurative language in each sentence.
 - Explaining the meaning of the phrase or why it represents that type.
- 3. Review and Discuss**
Go over the answer key as a class. Encourage students to explain their thinking and notice that some phrases could spark debate (e.g., idiom vs. metaphor).
- 4. Extension Options**
 - Have students create their own Valentine's Day-themed figurative language examples for each type.
 - Use them to create a "class book" or display.
 - Tie it into writing: challenge students to add at least three figurative language devices to a Valentine's Day-themed narrative.

Differentiation Ideas

- Support:** Provide sentence stems like "This is a _____ because it..."
- Challenge:** Ask students to explain how figurative language affects imagery, tone, or meaning in writing.
- Engagement:** Let students act out or illustrate examples for their peers.

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Name: _____ Date: _____

VALENTINE'S DAY WORD SEARCH

Find the Valentine's Day words in the word search below.

E	N	I	M	E	B	E	S	E	T	E	D	D	D	
N	S	R	C	L	C	H	E	S	S	R	R	I	C	
I	S	W	T	R	S	H	S	N	E	A	R	M	H	

Name: _____ Date: _____

LOVE STORY WOULD YOU RATHER READ...

Read the synopsis for each novel pair and then write the title of the book you would rather read. Then write an explanation as to why you'd prefer that book.

Would you rather read book one: _____

Explanation: _____

Would you rather read book two: _____



Teacher Guide Page: Love/Romance Novel Would You Rather Read...

Overview

This activity helps students explore new novels while practicing decision-making and written explanation skills. Students read short synopses of two books, decide which one they would rather read, and explain their reasoning.

Why This Activity?

This "Would You Rather" structure builds buzz around independent reading by presenting students with real choices. It also encourages them to think critically about what draws them to a book—whether it's genre, plot, theme, or style.

Instructions

- 1. Introduce the Activity**
 - Show students the slides (included in a separate file).
 - Each slide presents two novels with cover images and a synopsis.
- 2. Student Choice**
 - Students read both synopses.
 - They choose which book they would rather read.
 - They write a short explanation for their choice, citing something specific from the synopsis that appealed to them.
- 3. Optional Add-On**
 - If you have physical copies of the books, display them in the classroom.
 - Encourage students to check them out or preview them after the activity.
 - Use this as a springboard into book talks, independent reading, or literature circles.

Differentiation Ideas

- Support:** Provide sentence starters like "I would rather read _____ because..."
- Challenge:** Ask students to connect their choice to a past favorite book or genre.
- Engagement:** Let students vote on the most popular picks and track results on a class chart.

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WOULD YOU RATHER READ... ACTIVITY

Name: _____ Date: _____
LOVE STORY WOULD YOU RATHER READ...

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Would you rather read book one: _____

Explanation: _____

Name: _____ Date: _____
LOVE STORY WOULD YOU RATHER READ...

Read the synopsis for each novel pair and then write the title of the book you would rather read. Then write an explanation as to why you'd prefer that book.

Would you rather read book one: _____

Explanation: _____



Teacher Guide Page Love/Romance Novel Would You Rather Read...

Overview

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6TH-8TH GRADE LOVE STORY WOULD YOU RATHER READ...



LOVE STORY would you rather read...



It's fourteen-year-old Gabe Sweeney's day to check for survivors...

LOVE STORY would you rather read...



LOVE STORY would you rather read...



Mary O'Malley is tired of keeping secrets. Secrets like her older brother, Jonny's, drug use. Starting seventh grade is tough enough without the upheaval her brother is bringing to their family.

LOVE STORY would you rather read...



LOVE STORY would you rather read...



Seventh grade is supposed to be a game changer. And Keiko thinks she's got it covered, especially with Audrey and Jenna by her side to shop for a new look, pick out a prime lunch spot, and even hit up that cute new bubble tea place after school. Her life is ready to tackle life as they say.

Maxine and Jonah bump into each other in the canned goods aisle of the grocery store just as the state of California is going into lockdown. When everything changes completely, could there be a worse time to meet? Max's

Maxine and Jonah bump into each other in the canned goods aisle of the grocery store just as the state of California is going into lockdown. When everything changes completely, could there be a worse time to meet? Max's

Jorge seems to have it all together. He's big enough that nobody really messes with him, but he's also a genuinely sweet guy with a solid, reliable group of friends. The only time he ever really feels off his game is when he crosses paths

It's up to Shenice to discover the truth about her family's past—and fast—before secrets take the Firebirds out of the game forever.

When Sarah's crush asks her to be a competitor, she feels pulled in a million directions. To stand up for what she believes in with her best friends, and accept the change to life good about herself.

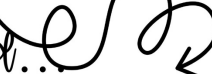
Sadie Scofield is just a few days away from the race of a lifetime. The Texas River Octoscy may be 260 miles and multiple days of arduous canoeing where every turn of the river reveals new dangers: downed trees, alligators, pitch black night—but those dangers pale in comparison to going another year knowing that her father is ashamed of her. Last year, Sadie caused a disastrous wreck that ended her father's twenty-year streak of finishes, and he's never looked at her the same. Now, she knows that finishing the race with her brother, Tanner, is her one shot to redeem herself. She's ready for anything...except Tanner ditching her for another team at the last minute. Sadie gets her teeth and accepts that she has to learn up with Cully, her former best friend turned worst enemy. It's irritating enough that he grew up to be so attractive, but once they're on the river it turns out he's ill-prepared for such a dangerous race. But as the miles pass, the pain of the race builds, they uncover the truth about their feuding families, and Sadie's feelings for Cully begin to shift. Could this race change her life more than she ever could have imagined?

Belly measures her life in summers. Everything good, everything magical happens between the months of June and August. Winters are simply a time to count the weeks until the next summer, a place away from the beach house, away from Susannah, and most importantly, away from Jeremiah and Winnie. They are the boys that Belly has known since her very first summer—they have been her brother figures, her crushes, and everything in between

LOVE STORY would you rather read...



LOVE STORY would you rather read...



Shenice Lockwood, captain of the Fulton Firebirds, is hyper-focused when she steps up to the plate. Nothing can stop her from leading her team to the U2 fast-pitch softball regional championship. But life has thrown some curveballs her way.

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LOVE SONG THEMES AND VALENTINE'S DAY FIGURATIVE LANGUAGE ACTIVITIES

Each lesson plan has a teacher guide, all teacher links, student resources, and any applicable reference sheets.

SONG FOUR:
Main Idea: _____

Theme: _____

Name: _____ Date: _____

ANALYZING THE THEME OF LOVE SONGS
Determine the theme and main idea (topic) that proves your theme.

SONG FOUR:
Main Idea: _____

Theme: _____

Text Evidence: _____

Name: _____ Date: _____

ANALYZING THE THEME OF LOVE SONGS
Listen to the famous love songs and/or read the lyrics and determine the theme and main idea (topic) that proves your theme.

THEME STATEMENTS

- Human beings are always searching for acceptance.
- Bravery comes in many forms.

THEME TOPICS IN LITERATURE

- Justice
- Kindness
- Knowledge
- Loneliness

Teacher Guide Page
Love Songs Theme Analysis

DISCLAIMER: I JUST PLAY THE SONGS
I've compiled a list of songs and links to preview all videos and songs. I've selected songs from various musical eras for the sake of time and my sanity. I only provide the chorus once. If the links don't work, please let me know.

- "I Will Always Love You" by Whitney Houston: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3JW...>
- "Bless My Love" by The Emotions: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rA...>
- "I Want to Know What Love Is" by Foreigner: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rA...>
- "My Heart Will Go On (Love Theme from Titanic)" by Celine Dion: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ect...>
- "Making Memories of Us" by Keith Urban: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3JW...>
- "You're Still the One" by Shania Twain: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3JW...>
- "Amazed" by Lonestar: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3JW...>
- "Crazy Little Thing Called Love" by Queen: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3JW...>
- "Is This Love?" by Whitesnake: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3JW...>
- "(I Just) Died in Your Arms" by Cutting Crew: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3JW...>
- "You Make Loving Fun" by Fleetwood Mac: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3JW...>
- "Chasing Cars" by Snow Patrol: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3JW...>
- "Bless the Broken Road" by Rascal Flatts: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3JW...>
- "Love Story" by Taylor Swift: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3JW...>
- "My Girl" by The Temptations: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3JW...>
- "Ain't No Other Man" by Christina Aguilera: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3JW...>
- "The Best" by Tina Turner: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3JW...>
- "Bleeding Love" by Leona Lewis: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3JW...>

Teacher Guide Page
Love Songs Theme Analysis

Overview
This activity uses music with love vibes to help students practice theme analysis. Students will listen to short clips from a curated list of songs across genres, then analyze the lyrics for themes, imagery, and seasonal connections.

Disclaimer
I just play the songs, I don't show the videos. Always preview all songs before playing to check for appropriateness in your classroom.

Why This Activity?
Music provides a powerful and relatable entry point for middle schoolers. Many songs use figurative language and emotional appeals that connect easily to literary analysis skills. Plus, the fall theme helps engage students in a seasonal and creative way.

Instructions

- 1. Introduce the Activity**
 - Explain that students will analyze the lyrics and overall theme of each song.
 - Remind them to listen for imagery, figurative language, tone, and message.
- 2. Play Song Clips**
 - For time management, play only the first section up to the chorus.
 - Pause after each clip for quick discussion or notes.
 - Use teacher notes provided for any special start times or cautions.
- 3. Analyze Themes**
Students can work individually, in pairs, or as a whole class to identify:
 - What is the central theme or message of this song?
 - How does it connect to fall, change, memory, or nostalgia?
 - What figurative language devices stand out?
- 4. Wrap-Up Writing / Discussion**
 - Compare how different genres express similar themes of love.
 - Optional writing prompt: Choose one song and explain how its theme connects to your own love experiences.

Differentiation Ideas

- Support:** Provide lyric excerpts or guiding questions.
- Challenge:** Ask students to compare a song to a poem or short story with a similar theme.
- Engagement:** Let students suggest and analyze their own love songs.

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9. _____ While I was singing a love song on the Karaoke machine, my boyfriend broke up with me over a text message.

Meaning: _____

10. _____ My alarm clock yelled at me to get out of bed this morning, and I jumped up when I realized it was finally Valentine's Day.

Meaning: _____

11. _____ But soft, what light through yonder window breaks? It is the east, and Juliet is the sun!" —Romeo & Juliet, William Shakespeare

Meaning: _____

12. _____ late in the afternoon, I found a love note from my boyfriend.

Meaning: _____

13. _____ are my love letters.

Meaning: _____

14. _____ Day, I found a love letter from my boyfriend.

Meaning: _____

9. _____ While I was singing a love song on the Karaoke machine, my boyfriend broke up with me over a text message.

Meaning: _____

10. _____ My alarm clock yelled at me to get out of bed this morning, and I jumped up when I realized it was finally Valentine's Day.

Meaning: _____

11. _____ But soft, what light through yonder window breaks? It is the east, and Juliet is the sun!" —Romeo & Juliet, William Shakespeare

Meaning: _____

12. _____ late in the afternoon, I found a love note from my boyfriend.

Meaning: _____

13. _____ are my love letters.

Meaning: _____

14. _____ Day, I found a love letter from my boyfriend.

Meaning: _____

Figurative LANGUAGE

Simile	Definition: Compares two unlike things using "like" or "as." Example: Nick's poem to Jess said, "My love is like a red, red rose."
Metaphor	Definition: Comparing two things that are not alike to suggest they have something in common. Example: "I thought love would be my cure But now it's my disease." — Alicia Keyes, "Love Is My Disease"
Hyperbole	Definition: an exaggeration that can't possibly be true. Example: There was a ton of candy in Ms. Day's classroom from all the Valentine's Day activities.
Alliteration	Definition: The repetition of beginning consonant sounds in two or more neighboring words or syllables. Example: After years of being apart, she reunited with his long, lost love .
Personification	Definition: Giving something unhuman, actual human qualities. Example: Jacob's Valentine's Day box was calling her name as she moved the love letter back and forth in her hands.
Idioms	Definition: An expression of two or more words that means something other than the actual or literal meaning. Example: She was so beautiful, that it took his breath away .
Allusion	Definition: An allusion is a figure of speech that makes a reference to a place, person, or event. Example: "Don't act like a Romeo in front of her." — "Romeo" is a reference to Shakespeare's Romeo.
Irony	Definition: the expression of one's meaning by using language that normally signifies the opposite. Example: He stressed all week about making Valentine's Day perfect for his girlfriend, but when he got to school, she didn't even know it was Valentine's Day until he handed her the balloons.

Teacher Guide Page
Valentine's Day Figurative Language

Overview
This activity helps students review and practice identifying types of figurative language in a Valentine's Day-themed context. Students will use a reference chart and apply their knowledge to sentences that include idioms, similes, metaphors, hyperboles, personification, irony, and more.

Why This Activity?
Middle schoolers often recognize figurative language when they hear it in conversation, songs, or commercials, but they struggle to label and explain it. This activity gives them seasonal, high-interest examples and plenty of practice connecting definitions with real usage.

Instructions

- 1. Introduce Figurative Language**
Use the reference chart (simile, metaphor, hyperbole, alliteration, onomatopoeia, personification, idioms, allusion, irony). Read through definitions and examples together.
- 2. Independent Practice**
Students complete the worksheet by:
 - Identifying the type of figurative language in each sentence.
 - Explaining the meaning of the phrase or why it represents that type.
- 3. Review and Discuss**
Go over the answer key as a class. Encourage students to explain their thinking and notice that some phrases could spark debate (e.g., idiom vs. metaphor).
- 4. Extension Options**
 - Have students create their own Valentine's Day-themed figurative language examples for each type.
 - Use them to create a "class book" or display.
 - Tie it into writing: challenge students to add at least three figurative language devices to a Valentine's Day-themed narrative.

Differentiation Ideas

- Support:** Provide sentence stems like "This is a _____ because it..."
- Challenge:** Ask students to explain how figurative language affects imagery, tone, or meaning in writing.
- Engagement:** Let students act out or illustrate examples for their peers.

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Rhetoric and Mood and Tone Advertisement Activities

Each lesson plan has a teacher guide, all teacher links, student resources, and any applicable reference sheets.

Name: _____ Date: _____

Valentine's Day Commercials MOOD AND TONE

Watch the Valentine's Day commercials beginning and identify the mood and tone of the commercials.

COMMERCIAL ONE

Product: _____

Name: _____ Date: _____

Valentine's Day Commercials MOOD AND TONE

Watch the Valentine's Day commercials and identify the mood and tone created in the _____ of the commercials.

MOOD AND TONE

TONE: The author's attitude toward a subject

MOOD: The atmosphere or emotions a selection creates

TONE WORDS	
Admiring	Encouraging

MOOD AND TONE

Teacher Guide Page

Valentine's Day Commercials MOOD AND TONE

Teacher Guide Page: Valentine's Day Commercial Mood and Tone

Overview

This activity uses Valentine's Day commercials to teach students how authors and creators establish **mood and tone**. Students will watch a curated selection of commercials and analyze how elements like lighting, music, color, pacing, and dialogue work together to create a specific feeling and attitude toward the subject.

Why These Commercials?

There are tons of Valentine's Day commercials out there, but I selected these because they're **appropriate for middle school** and require little to no editing. **Teachers should always preview the commercials to ensure they fit their classroom and students.**

Instructions

- Introduce Mood and Tone:** Review the difference between *mood* (the feeling or atmosphere created for the audience) and *tone* (the author's or creator's attitude toward the subject). Provide a few familiar examples from stories, songs, or films.
- Watch Commercials:** Give students the **Links Page** (below) or show the videos as a class.
 - Option 1:** Watch together and pause to discuss key moments.
 - Option 2:** Assign in small groups or stations for independent analysis.
- Analyze Mood and Tone:** After each commercial, have students identify and discuss:
 - What is the mood of the commercial? How do you know?
 - What is the tone the company or narrator uses?
 - Which elements (music, lighting, sound effects, word choice, pacing, colors) help create that effect?
 - How do the choices connect to Valentine's Day themes or emotions?

Wrap-Up Discussion / Writing

- Students reflect: Which commercials created the strongest mood? Which used tone most effectively to influence the audience's reaction?
- You might also ask: *How does mood or tone affect how we respond to advertisements during Valentine's Day?*

Differentiation Ideas

- Advanced learners:** Compare two commercials that create contrasting moods (e.g., loving vs. funny) and explain which is more effective and why.
- Support:** Provide a sentence frame or mood/tone chart (e.g., "This commercial feels _____ because the creator used _____").
- Cross-curricular:** Connect to art or media studies by discussing color psychology or sound design in advertising.

Name: _____ Date: _____

Valentine's Day Commercial Rhetorical Appeals

Watch the Valentine's Day commercials and identify the ethos, pathos, and logos used in each. Some may not have all three appeals, but think critically about how all three might be included.

COMMERCIAL ONE Product: _____

Name: _____ Date: _____

Valentine's Day Commercial Rhetorical Appeals

Watch the Valentine's Day commercials and identify the ethos, pathos, and logos used in each. Some may not have all three appeals, but think critically about how all three might be included.

COMMERCIAL ONE Product: _____

Product: _____

COMMERCIAL FIVE

Product: _____

Name: _____ Date: _____

Valentine's Day Commercial Rhetorical Appeals

Watch the Valentine's Day commercials and identify the ethos, pathos, and logos used in each. Some may not have all three appeals, but think critically about how all three might be included.

COMMERCIAL ONE Product: _____

Product: _____

COMMERCIAL FIVE

Product: _____

Ethos: _____

Pathos: _____

Logos: _____





COM: _____

Product: _____

COMMERCIAL FIVE

Product: _____

rhetoric TERMS

RHETORICAL ANALYSIS 	Definition: A reason or set of reasons given to persuade that an action or idea is right or wrong. Example: Alyssa wrote a paper argument was that Martin Luther King Jr. was better at encouraging change than the Civil Rights Movement, than MLK.
ETHOS 	Definition: Ethos is an appeal to a person's character or credibility of the speaker. Example: The author used the word "I" when he told us he had had a subject matter that he was presenting.
LOGOS 	Definition: An appeal to logic or reasoning to persuade an audience by using facts, statistics, or logical arguments. Example: The toothpaste commercial uses the logos rhetorical appeal by using statistics on how many dentists recommend their toothpaste.
PATHOS 	Definition: Pathos is an appeal to emotion and is a way of convincing an audience by creating an emotional response. Example: The commercial with the dog cages, and the sad song in the background is trying to use the pathos rhetorical appeal.

Teacher Guide Page

Valentine's Day Commercial Rhetorical Appeals

- Google "Parisian Love"
- A U
- T
- L
- L
- L
- D
- V
- N

Teacher Guide Page: Valentine's Day Commercial Rhetorical Appeals

Overview

This activity uses Valentine's Day commercials to teach students about rhetorical appeals (ethos, pathos, logos). Students will watch a curated selection of commercials and analyze how companies use emotional connection, credibility, and logic to persuade their audience.

Why These Commercials?

There are tons of Valentine's Day commercials out there, but I selected these because they are appropriate for middle school and either don't require skipping—or I've noted which parts to avoid. Teachers should always preview the commercials to ensure they work in their classroom setting.

Instructions

- Introduce Rhetorical Appeals**
Review ethos (credibility), pathos (emotions), and logos (logic) with examples.
- Watch Commercials**
Provide students with the Links Page (below) so they can access the videos.
 - Option 1: Watch together as a class and pause to discuss.
 - Option 2: Assign in small groups or stations for independent analysis.
- Analyze Appeals**
After each commercial, have students identify:
 - Which appeal(s) are used?
 - What specific techniques make it effective (music, narration, imagery, characters, etc.)?
 - How does the commercial connect to Valentine's Day or emotions?

Wrap-Up Discussion / Writing

Students reflect: Which rhetorical appeal seems most common in Valentine's Day commercials? Why might advertisers lean on that strategy during the holiday season?

Differentiation Ideas

- Advanced learners:** Compare the effectiveness of appeals across commercials.
- Support:** Provide sentence starters or a graphic organizer (e.g., "This commercial appeals to _____ because...").
- Cross-curricular:** Tie into media literacy or even economics (holiday spending).

DIGITAL STUDENT NOTEBOOK AND GOOGLE SLIDES INCLUDED

Valentine's Day ELA Activities

File Edit View Insert Format Slide Arrange Tools Extensions Help

Fit Tr Background Layout Theme Transition

DETERMINING THE TYPE OF FIGURATIVE LANGUAGE

Determine which type of figurative language is used and then explain its meaning or how it is that particular type of figurative language.

EXAMPLE	TYPE OF FIGURATIVE LANGUAGE	MEANING AND/OR EXPLANATION
1. She was head over heels in love with her new boyfriend.		
2. Happiness is the china shop; love is the bull.		
3. When I saw how cute he was, he took my breath away.		
4. His daughter was the apple of his eye.		

1. VALENTINE'S DAY ELA ACTIVITIES

2. VALENTINE'S DAY WORD SEARCH

3. Figurative LANGUAGE

4. DETERMINING THE TYPE OF FIGURATIVE LANGUAGE

5. DETERMINING THE TYPE OF FIGURATIVE LANGUAGE

Valentine's Day ELA Activities

File Edit View Insert Format Slide Arrange Tools Extensions Help

Fit Tr Background Layout Theme Transition

VALENTINE'S DAY COMMERCIALS RHETORICAL APPEALS

Watch the Valentine's Day commercials and identify the ethos, pathos, and logos used in each. Some may not have all three appeals, but think critically about how all three might be included.

7. Samsung: "Samsung's Valentines Day Love Notes" https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ek6IA_yOTR4&list=UL0xW0eyN6Vno&index=423

Product Seven:
Ethos
Pathos
Logos

8. Dairy Queen: "Dairy Queen Commercial 2017 Cupid Cake" <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=A44-1B8JdAg>

Product Eight:
Ethos
Pathos
Logos

9. Victoria's Secret: "Victoria's Secret Angels Play Football" https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=55-sx-Gqd_M

Product Nine:
Ethos
Pathos
Logos

10. Mrs. Fields: "2017 Valentine's Day Commercial" <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ke5QHQMjUY>

Product Ten:
Ethos
Pathos
Logos

Love Story Novel Would You Rather...

File Edit View Insert Format Slide Arrange Tools Extensions Help

Fit Tr Background Layout Theme Transition

LOVE STORY

would you rather read...

Maxine and Jonah bump into each other in the canned goods aisle of the grocery store just as the state of California is going into lockdown, when everything changes completely. Could there be a worse time to meet? Max's part-time job at a supermarket is about to transform into a health gauntlet. Jonah's breakfasting anxiety is about to become an epic daily struggle. As Max, Jonah, and their friends live together but apart through hijinks, humanity, and heartbreak, Hello From Here! cuts across urgent matters much bigger than a teenage crush. Differences of class, privilege, mental health, and sacrifice are thrown into stark relief by the profound and personal stresses of the COVID-19 pandemic. As thoughts, probing, and informed as it is, buoyant, romantic, and funny, Hello From Here! looks at the first two months of the quarantine and odds falling hopelessly in love to the mess.

Jorge seems to have it all together. He's big enough that nobody really messes with him, but he's also a genuinely sweet guy with a solid, reliable group of friends. The only time he ever really feels off his game is when he crosses paths with a certain girl... But when the group dynamic among the boys starts to shift, will Jorge be able to balance what his friends expect of him versus what he actually wants?

CHARLOTTE BECKER • WESLEY KIM

hello (from here)

crush

SWELLEN CHAIRS

THE BUNKER TEACHER

FIVE

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