

The Valentine Bears Plans

Social Studies:

Valentine's Day:

Enjoy learning about the history and legends behind Valentine's Day. You can read more about the subject from the following two links:

[Creative Kids At Home](#)
[Kaboose Kids](#)

Seasons:

Mrs Bear wakes up in winter and comments that it would be much better if such a special holiday took place in the summer. Discuss the seasons in a year and when each one starts.

You could also mention that in the Southern Hemisphere Valentine's Day does, indeed, fall in Summer! Your older students might enjoy locating the Southern and Northern hemisphere on the map.

Language Arts:

Repetition:

There is a sentence that is repeated consistently through the book, can your student find it? *Mr Bear could sleep through just about anything.*

Simile:

There is a great example of simile in the story when the author describes the sun and snow: *"The sun shone through a haze, pale as milk."* Simile is the comparison of two different things using the words "like", "as", or "than". Can your student come up with their own form of similes for Valentine's Day? It might help to get them started, here's a few examples:

The Valentine Card was as sweet as candy.

The chocolate was as brown as a bear.

I love you as wide as the earth.

Poetry & Rhyming:

Not all poems rhyme, but the ones Mrs Bear wrote did! Make a list of fun words that rhyme and then allow your students to write Valentine poems using these words. It might help your younger students if you made a list of words that go with Valentine's Day and then worked on finding rhyming words from there. Ie. Love Dove, Sweet Treat, Neat Sweet, Fun Ton, Honey Funny, etc.

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Math:

Months Of The Year:

Mrs Bear goes to sleep on October 14th and wakes up on February 14th. Your younger students could use a calendar to count the actual days off, while your older students could use estimation and general knowledge of a calendar to find out how many days Mrs Bear slept for. This is also a great opportunity to bring up months of the year.

Mr Bear asked if he could sleep for 5 more weeks, can your student figure out which month he would have woken up in if he had slept that much longer? This is also a great chance to discuss days in a week and days in a month, remembering that February is the shortest month of the year.

Your students might enjoy the typical poem about days in a month:

*Thirty days hath September,
April, June, and November;
All the rest have thirty-one,
Save February, with twenty-eight days clear,
And twenty-nine each leap year.*

Science:

Hibernation:

The bears were clearly hibernating, and there's a line in the book about a wolverine having a nice long sleep. It might be fun to make a small list of animals that hibernate and discuss why they do this.

Animals:

Bears, termites, ants, beetles, deer, & wolverines were all mentioned in the book. Your student might enjoy learning about one or more of the mentioned animals if they haven't all ready learned about them. You could also use the above animals to add to a classification chart.

Art:

Primary Colors:

In the story two primary colors are used, red & yellow. If your student doesn't know primary colors yet this might be a fun opportunity to discuss them.

You could also discuss how only certain things are highlighter in color in the pictures to draw attention to certain details or items in the picture.

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Valentines:

Help your student use their poems on some homemade valentines. Paper hearts, glue, and glitter can go a long way to making someone feel very special when they receive a homemade card.

Recipes:

Bear Claws:

Rain Bread Dough

1/2 t Cinnamon

1/4 c flour

1/2 c Sugar (brown, white, or coconut)

3 T sugar OR 4 oz cream cheese, softened

1 1/2 t cocoa powder or carob (optional)

Mix all ingredients, except bread dough, together in a bowl.

Break dough into 20 even pieces and roll each piece out to a 4 inch circle. Place 1 - 1 1/2T of cream cheese mixture on the center of each round. Place a second round on top of them and use a fork to press closed. Use Almond slivers for "claws" if desired. Bake at 350/180 for 15-20 minutes or until golden brown and done. Top with glaze if desired.

Glaze Recipe:

1/2 c powdered sugar (icing sugar, confectioners sugar, or ground coconut sugar)

1/4 t vanilla

2 t milk

Mix well and drizzle over hot bear claws.

Chocolate Covered Ants (Raisins):

6 oz of chocolate

1 1/2 c raisins

3 T butter or coconut oil (optional)*

Melt the chocolate, carefully, in a double boiler or your microwave. Do not overheat or you'll burn the chocolate. Mix in raisins and butter or oil. Spoon covered raisins onto a wax

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paper lined baking sheet and pop in the fridge or freezer until set. Unless you place each individual raisin on the pan you might have raisins sticking together, but you can easily break them apart once they are hard.

*butter, coconut oil, or shortening will simply give your chocolate covered raisins a nice glossy finish. If you don't care if they are glossy you can easily omit this ingredient.

Heart Shaped Biscuits & Fruity Honey

2 cups flour

1 T sugar

1 t baking powder

1/2 t salt

1/2 t baking soda

1/4 c shortening, butter, OR coconut oil

3/4 c buttermilk

In a large bowl mix together the dry ingredients; using your hands or a fork work the butter in until the mixture resembles coarse crumbs. Add buttermilk, stirring just enough that the mixture holds together. Turn out onto the counter and knead gently turning about 10 -12 times.

Roll out to a 1/2-inch thickness, cut with a lightly floured heart shaped biscuit/cookie cutter. Place 1-inch apart on a lightly greased baking sheet. Bake at 400/200 for 10-12 minutes or until lightly browned.

Serve with butter and fruit honey.

Additionally you could add 1/2 c chopped, dried raspberries, strawberries, or cranberries to your biscuit mixture to give it an extra special Valentine's feeling. You could also add 2 T mini chocolate chips if desired.