

Unit Sixteen

My Forever Valentine



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The History of Valentine's Day

- Valentine: Roman Christian who according to tradition was martyred during the persecution of Christians by Emperor Claudius II. Another martyr named Valentine, who was bishop of Terni, a region in present-day central Italy, has also been suggested as the inspiration for our modern feast of Saint Valentine's Day.

圣瓦伦丁: 罗马基督教徒, 据说他在皇帝克劳迪二世对基督教徒的审判中遇难, 另一个叫圣瓦伦丁的遇难者是今天意大利中部地区的特尔尼的主教, 他也被认为是我们当代圣瓦伦丁节日宴会的启示者。



Saint Valentine's Day (February 14th)

- ❑ There are varying opinions as to the origin of **Valentine's Day**. Some experts state that it originated from St. Valentine, a Roman who was martyred for refusing to give up Christianity. He died on February 14th, 269 A.D.
 - ❑ Legend also says that **St. Valentine** left a farewell note for the jailer's daughter, who had become his friend, and signed it "From Your Valentine".
 - ❑ Other aspects of the story say that **Saint Valentine** served as a priest at the temple during the reign of Emperor Claudius. Claudius then had Valentine jailed for defying him. In 496 A.D. Pope Gelasius set aside February 14 to honour St. Valentine.
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Saint Valentine's Day (February 14th)

- Gradually, February 14th became the date for exchanging love messages and St. Valentine became the **patron saint of lovers**. The date was marked by sending poems and simple gifts such as flowers. There was often a social gathering or a ball.
 - In the United States, Miss **Esther Howland** is given credit for sending the first valentine cards. Commercial valentines were introduced in the 1800's, and now the date is very commercialised. The town of Loveland, Colorado, does a large post office business around February 14th. On that day, valentines are sent out with sentimental verses and children exchange valentine cards at school.
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Leading Questions:

1) The narrator's father showed particular profound love for her on Valentine's day. Can you cite some examples to show that?

A: On the morning of the special day of the year when she was six, at the breakfast table she found a card and a gift-wrapped package at her chair. The card was signed "love, Dad," and the gift was a ring with a small piece of red glass to represent her birthstone, a ruby.



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- As she grow older, the gifts gave way to heart-shaped chocolates and always included a special card signed “love, Dad.”
 - If her father sensed any disappointment over valentines that didn’t arrive for her, he just tried that much harder to create a positive atmosphere, giving her an extra hug and doing what he could to make her day a little brighter.
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- Never in ten years was her father's package late for her, when she had a rural address, nor was it late on Valentine's Day eight year's ago. This is the final card from her dying Father...
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Leading Questions:

2) why does the writer focus her accounts and descriptions on her first recollection of the magic and on the last card and gift from her father?

A: Because the first and last gifts her father offered her are the most impressive and the most unforgettable, and hence the most typical examples.



Text Analysis

Paragraph 1-2

These two paragraphs form the first part of the text. They mention briefly the hobby and work of the author's father, and state the theme of the text: her father chose Valentine's Day to show his special love for the special people in his life. Over the years the narrator fondly regarded her father as her "Valentine Man".

Text Analysis

1. Q: What was the narrator's father? And what was his hobby?

The narrator's father did office work. He was fond of drinking beer and watching football matches.

2. Q: Why did the narrator think of her father as her "Valentine Man"?

Because on Valentine's Day her father showed his profound love for her by presenting her with gifts and showing great care for her, for many years in succession, until he passed away.



Language Work (Paras 1-2)

1) valentine, n.

A sentimental or humorous greeting **card** sent to a sweetheart, friend, or family member, for example, on Saint Valentine's Day.

A **gift** sent as a token of love to one's sweetheart on Saint Valentine's Day.

A **person** singled out especially as one's sweetheart on Saint Valentine's Day.



2) time, vt.

arrange or set the time at which
sth. happens or is to happen

- You timed your arrival well; we were just going to have dinner.
 - The train is timed to arrive at six o'clock.
-



3) elaborate, adj.

Full of detail; carefully worked out
and with a large number of parts

---She made elaborate preparations for
the party.

---The curtains had an elaborate pattern
of flowers.



4) chitchat, n.

informal light conversation or gossip

---Mother is having chitchat with granny.

---My parents used to make chitchat after supper in winter.



5) fondly, adv.

in a loving way; in a foolishly happy way

- She greeted her old friends fondly.
 - She fondly imagined that she could pass her examination without working hard.
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Text Analysis

Paragraph 3-6

These paragraphs tell us that the narrator's father not only gave gifts to her on Valentine's Day, but also did everything that is possible to make the day a little brighter if she was disappointed.



Text Analysis

Paragraph 3-6

1. Q: What does the “magic” mentioned in Paragraph 3 refer to?

It refers to the wonderful gifts and profound love that the narrator’s father gave her.

Text Analysis

Paragraph 3-6

2. Q: What gifts did the narrator give her as she grew older?

As she grew older, the narrator's father gave her such gifts as heart-shaped boxes filled with her favorite chocolates, which always include a special card signed "Love, Dad."



Language Work (Paras 3-6)

1) recollection, n.

memory; the power or action of remembering the past; something in one's memory of the past

---I have no recollection of meeting him.

---Her recollection of the events is rather patchy.



2) decorate, vt.

provide with sth. that is added because it is attractive or beautiful, not because it is necessary, e.g. for a special occasion

- During the Spring Festival, nearly all the streets are decorated with flowers.
 - We spent the weekend decorating the flat with holly and flowers.
-



3) usher, v.

bring, esp. by showing the way

---She ushered the visitor into the room.

---The bombing of Hiroshima ushered in the nuclear age.

4) contest, n.

a struggle for superiority or victory between rivals.

a competition, especially one in which entrants perform separately and are rated by judges.

- The contest for leadership of the union is growing more and more fierce.
 - Many beautiful girls from all continents participated in the Beauty Contest.
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5) cute

attractive in an amusing or interesting way;

(derog.) (too) clever; shrewd 机敏的, 精明的

---What a cute little baby!

---You must approach her carefully, for she is a cute woman.



6) represent

act or speak officially; depict, to be a picture of

---She represented her fellow-workers at the union meeting.

---This picture represents the death of a great national hero.



7) surpass

to be or go beyond, as in amount, degree or quality; exceed.

- The task surpassed his skill.
 - The latecomers surpass the early starters.
 - The performances surpassed all their hopes.
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8) hug

hold closely, especially in the arms, as in affection; embrace

---He gave his girlfriend a hug before he got on the train.

to hold steadfastly to; cherish:

---He still hugs his outmoded beliefs.

他还死守着他那些过了时的信条。



Text Analysis

Paragraphs 7-10

These four paragraphs concentrate on the last package the writer received from her dying father, detailed descriptions focusing on the final card, which put a lump in her throat and moved her to tears.



Text Analysis

1. Q: Why was the job of hand-delivering candy and cards relegated to the U.S. Postal Service?

Because the narrator settled down in a rural area, which was quite a distance away from where her father lived.



Text Analysis

2.Q: How did the author describe the final card she received from her dying father?

- The card had a photograph of tulips on the outside, and on the inside my mother had printed “Happy Valentine’s Day”. Beneath it, scrawled in barely legible handwriting was “Love, Dad”.
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Text Analysis

- It was the kind of card that comes in an inexpensive assortment box sold by a child going door-to-door to try to earn money for a school project. It was the kind of card you used to get from a grandmother or an aging aunt or, in this case, a dying father.
 - It was the kind of card that put a lump in you throat and tears in your eyes because you knew the person no longer was able to go out and buy a real valentine. It was a card that signaled this would be the last you would receive from him.
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Language Work (Paras 7-10)

1) eventually

at last; in the end

- He eventually rose to the position of vice president.
 - He worked so hard that eventually he made himself ill.
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2) rural

Of, relating to, or characteristic of the country or people who live in the country:

- Crops are grown in rural areas.
 - Rural bus services are often inadequate.
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3) relegate

put into a lower or worse place, or condition;

to send to a place of exile; banish.

---He was relegated to a secondary position.(降到次要位置)

---We relegated the old furniture to the children's room.



4) assortment

mixture; collection

a collection of various kinds; a variety.什

锦; 各色俱全

---She has an odd assortment of friends.

---This is an assortment of sweets.



5) scrawl

to write hastily or illegibly.

to write in a sprawling, irregular manner.

---He scrawled a few hurried lines on a sheet of paper, put it into an envelope and sent for the servant.

---The walls in the scenic spots are scrawled all over.



6) legible

(of handwriting or print) that can be read, esp. easily; apparent

- The manuscript unearthed from the tomb are no longer legible.
 - His handwriting is barely legible.
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Text Analysis

Paras 11-12

These two paragraphs may be viewed as the concluding part. The narrator tells us how important it has been to her over the years to know that she had such a great father and that she will never forget her father and his affection for her.

Text Analysis

1. Q: why does her father's final card remain on her bulletin board today?

Because it's a remainder of how special fathers can be and how important it has been to her over the years to know that she had a father who continued a tradition of love with a generosity of spirit, simple acts of understanding and ability to express happiness over the people in his life.

Language Work (Paras 11-12)

1) bulletin, n.

A brief report, especially an official statement on a matter of public interest issued for immediate publication or broadcast. 公告; 告示

A brief update or summary of current news, as on television or radio or in a newspaper. 新闻快报

---The latest bulletin about the President's health can be seen in almost every newspaper.



2) generosity, n.

liberality in giving or willingness to give:

慷慨给予的慷慨或原意给予:

---Those who are characterized by generosity are invariably popular among people.

---“Uncommon generosity causes neglect rather than ingratitude.”“罕见的慷慨引起怠慢而不是忘恩负义。”
