

**FLASH- EGB'S STUDENTS NEWSLETTER**  
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## SAINT VALENTINE'S DAY

Saint Valentine's Day, commonly known as Valentine's Day, or the Feast of Saint Valentine, is observed on February 14 each year. It is celebrated in many countries around the world, although it remains a working day in most of them. It is the second most celebrated holiday around the world second to New Year's Day.



The day was first associated with romantic love in the circle of Geoffrey Chaucer in the High Middle Ages, when the tradition of courtly love flourished. By the 15th century, it had evolved into an occasion in which lovers expressed their love for each other by presenting flowers, offering confectionery, and sending greeting cards (known as "valentines").

Valentine's Day symbols that are used today include the heart-shaped outline, doves, and the figure of the winged Cupid. Since the 19th century, handwritten valentines have given way to mass-produced greeting cards. Today, according to the Greeting Card Association, an estimated 1 billion Valentine's Day cards are sent each year

By Ciprian Tulea, 9thF

## THE LEGEND OF ST VALENTINE

The history of Valentine's Day-and the story of its patron saint-is shrouded in mystery. We do know that February has long been celebrated as a month of romance, and that St. Valentine's Day, as we know it today, contains vestiges of both Christian and ancient Roman tradition. But who was Saint Valentine, and how did he become associated with this ancient rite?

The Catholic Church recognizes at least three different saints named Valentine or Valentinus, all of whom were martyred. One legend says that Valentine was a priest who served during the third century in Rome. When Emperor Claudius II decided that single men made better soldiers than those with wives and families, he forbade young men to marry. Valentine, realizing the injustice of the law, defied Claudius and continued to perform marriages for young lovers in secret. When Valentine's actions were discovered, Claudius ordered that he be put to death.



Other stories suggest that Valentine may have been killed for attempting to help

Christians escape harsh Roman prisons, where they were often beaten and tortured. According to one legend, an imprisoned Valentine actually sent the first "valentine" greeting after he fell in love with a young girl—possibly his jailor's daughter—who visited him during his confinement. Before his death, it is alleged that he wrote her a letter signed "From your Valentine," an expression that is still in use today. Although the truth behind the Valentine legends is murky, the stories all emphasize his appeal as a sympathetic, heroic and—most importantly—romantic figure. By the Middle Ages, perhaps thanks to this reputation, Valentine would become one of the most popular saints in England and France.

By Beatrice Farcutiu, 10thF



### ORIGINS OF VALENTINE'S DAY

While some believe that Valentine's Day is celebrated in the middle of February to commemorate the anniversary of Valentine's death, others claim that the Christian church may have decided to place St. Valentine's feast day in the middle of February in an effort to "Christianize" the

pagan celebration of Lupercalia. Celebrated at the ides of February, or February 15, Lupercalia was a fertility festival dedicated to Faunus, the Roman god of agriculture, as well as to the Roman founders Romulus and Remus.



To begin the festival, members of the Luperci, an order of Roman priests, would gather at a sacred cave where the infants Romulus and Remus, the founders of Rome, were believed to have been cared for by a she-wolf.

The priests would sacrifice a goat, for fertility, and a dog, for purification. They would then strip the goat's hide into strips, dip them into the sacrificial blood and take to the streets, gently slapping both women and crop fields with the goat hide.

Later in the day, according to legend, all the young women in the city would place their names in a big urn. The city's bachelors would each choose a name and become paired for the year with his chosen woman. These matches often ended in marriage.

By Flavia Seres, 10th F

### VALENTINE'S DAY: A DAY OF ROMANCE

Lupercalia survived the initial rise of Christianity and but was outlawed—as it

was deemed “un-Christian”-at the end of the 5th century, when Pope Gelasius declared February 14 St. Valentine's Day. It was not until much later, however, that the day became definitively associated with love.

During the Middle Ages, it was commonly believed in France and England that February 14 was the beginning of birds' mating season, which added to the idea that the middle of Valentine's Day should be a day for romance.



Valentine greetings were popular as far back as the Middle Ages, though written Valentine's didn't begin to appear until after 1400.

The oldest known valentine still in existence today was a poem written in 1415 by Charles, Duke of Orleans, to his wife while he was imprisoned in the Tower of London following his capture at the Battle of Agincourt.

(The greeting is now part of the manuscript collection of the British Library in London, England.)

By Andrada Darlea, 10th F

## TYPICAL ST VALENTINE'S GREETINGS

In addition to the United States, Valentine's Day is celebrated in Canada, Mexico, the United Kingdom, France and Australia. In Great Britain, Valentine's Day began to be popularly celebrated around the 17th century.

By the middle of the 18th, it was common for friends and lovers of all social classes to exchange small tokens of affection or handwritten notes, and by 1900 printed cards began to replace written letters due to improvements in printing technology. Ready-made cards were an easy way for people to express their emotions in a time when direct expression of one's feelings was discouraged.

Americans began exchanging hand-made valentines in the early 1700s. In the 1840s, Esther Howland began selling the first mass-produced valentines in America. She made elaborate creations with real lace, ribbons and colorful pictures known as "scrap."

By Piera Cuzman, 9th E





## TOP LOVE SONGS

By Claudia Varga & Tania Boldis, Denisa

Buhai, 9th E

One amazing expression of love we share comes through music. Music, unlike other mediums evokes a passion and feeling absent in other media. The feelings of not only the singer, but the music come together in a form of expression the other methods lack. Best of all, it can be shared.



Here is a list with some of the most beautiful love songs of all time:

- Percy Sledge-When a man loves a woman
- Leo Sayer- When I need you
- Bruno Mars- Just the way you are
- Celine Dion-Because you loved me
- Three Door Down-Here without you
- The Police-Every breath you take
- Nickelback-Far away
- Hurts- Stay
- Lawson - Learn to love again
- Phil Collins- You'll be in my heart
- Scorpions- Still loving you
- Berlin- Take my breath away
- Bryan Adams- (Everything I do) I do it for you
- Celine Dion - My heart will go on

- Whitney Houston-I will always love you

## I WILL ALWAYS LOVE YOU (LYRICS)

If I should stay I would be only in the way  
So I'll go but I know  
I'll think of you every step of the way  
And I will always love you.  
You, my darling you.

Bittersweet memories  
That's all I'm taking with me  
So goodbye, please don't cry.  
We both know I'm not what you, you need.  
And I will always love you.  
I will always love you.

I hope life treats you kind  
And I hope you have all you've dreamed of.  
And I wish you joy and happiness  
But above all this, I wish you love  
And I will always love you.  
I will always love you  
I will always love you...  
You, darling I love you.

## ALL MY LOVING (LYRICS) BEATLES

Close your eyes and I'll kiss you  
Tomorrow I'll miss you  
Remember I'll always be true

And then while I'm away  
I'll write home every day  
And I'll send all my loving to you

I'll pretend that I'm kissing  
The lips I am missing  
And hope that my dreams will come true

And then while I'm away  
I'll write home every day  
And I'll send all my loving to you

All my loving, I will send to you  
All my loving, darling I'll be true

## LOVE POEMS

*Considering the fact that nobody reads poems nowadays anymore, we have selected some of the most famous love poems ever. Perhaps you'll read them, perhaps you'll like them, and one day- who knows -you'll become a famous poet.*

Selection by Ariana, Robert and Piera, 9th E

### SONNET XVIII

Shall I compare thee to a summer's day?  
Thou art more lovely and more temperate:  
Rough winds do shake the darling buds of  
May,  
And summer's lease hath all too short a  
date:

Sometime too hot the eye of heaven shines,  
And often is his gold complexion dimm'd;  
And every fair from fair sometime declines,

By chance or nature's changing course  
untrimm'd;  
But thy eternal summer shall not fade  
Nor lose possession of that fair thou  
owest;Nor shall Death brag thou wander'st  
in his shade,

When in eternal lines to time thou growest:  
So long as men can breathe or eyes can see,  
So long lives this and this gives life to thee.

By William Shakespeare

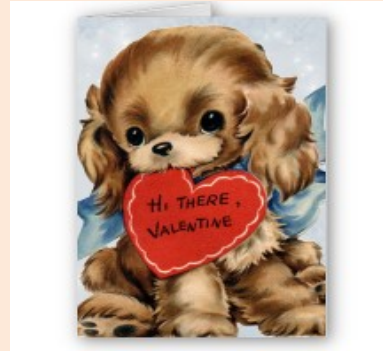
### WHEN YOU ARE OLD

When you are old and gray and full of sleep,  
And nodding by the fire, take down this book,  
And slowly read, and dream of the soft look  
Your eyes had once and of their shadows deep;

How many loved your moments of glad grace,  
And loved your beauty with love false or true;  
But one man loved the pilgrim soul in you,

And loved the sorrows of your changing face.  
And bending down beside the glowing bars  
Murmurs, a little sadly, how love fled  
And paced upon the mountains overhead  
And hid his face amid a crowd of stars.

By W.B.Yeats



By Robert Browning

### HOW DO I LOVE THEE

How do I love thee? Let me count the ways.  
I love thee to the depth and breadth and  
height

My soul can reach, when feeling out of  
sight

For the ends of Being and ideal Grace.

I love thee to the level of every day's  
Most quiet need; by sun and candle-light.  
I love thee freely, as men strive for Right;  
I love thee purely, as they turn from Praise.

I love thee with the passion put to use  
In my old griefs, and with my childhood's  
faith

I love thee with a love I seemed to lose  
With my lost saints,--I love thee with the  
breath.

Smiles, tears, of all my life!--and, if God  
choose,

I shall but love thee better after death

By Elisabeth Barret Browning.

## VALENTINE RHYMES

By Carina Zima, Denisa Talaba, Denisa Tolan, 9th E

*What shall you write on a Valentine card besides the usual, easy cheesy lines you are all familiar with?*

*Below are some suggestions to replace the famous little poems beginning with: „Roses are red / Violets are blue..“*

I love you from the bottom of my heart. Be mine forever

Last night I sent an angel 2 watch over u while u were sleeping but it came back early! So I asked it why? It said that angels don't watch over other angels!

You are always in my heart, here and everywhere .

There is no one in the whole world that makes me feel this way.

If the only place that I can meet you is in my dream, I don't want to wake up anymore.

I love you not only for what you are, but for what I am when I am with you. (Elizabeth Barrett Browning)

In the arithmetic of love, one plus one equals everything and two minus one equals nothing. (Mignon McLaughlin)

I'd rather have one breath of her hair, one kiss of her mouth, one touch of her hand than an eternity without it.

If you love someone you say it, you say it

right then, out loud. Otherwise the moment just passes you by.

I do not think much, i do not think often, but when I think, I think of you!

Sometimes words are hard to find, to form that perfect line to let you know you're always on my mind!

It must have been a rainy day when you were born, but it wasn't really rain, the sky was crying because it lost its most beautiful angel...!

If you love someone, you give everything you can and don't expect to receive anything in return.

Love is to think about someone else more times in a day than you think about yourself.

Don't fall in love with someone you can live with, fall in love with someone you can't live without.



When you love someone, it's something. When someone loves you, it's another thing.

When you love the person who loves you back, it's everything. Kiss me and you will see stars... Love me and I will give them to you  
I love you from the bottom of my heart. Be mine forever!

## THE LANGUAGE OF FLOWERS

We all know red roses are a classic symbol of true love. Beyond that, though, many of us aren't sure of the symbolic meanings of flowers, and may fear accidentally sending the wrong message. Here are some of the traditional meanings of flowers.

### Flower Meaning

Tulips: "I love you." Lilies: "Refined beauty." Daisies: "We understand each other." Gardenia bonsai: "You make me so happy." Bamboo plant: "Lucky." Bird of Paradise plant: "Joy and excitement." Zinnias: "I miss you." Orchids: "You're beautiful." Miniature roses: "You're a sweet girl." Pink roses: "Admiration, gratitude." Lavender roses: "Enchantment." Yellow roses: "Friendship."

### LOVE MESSAGES(SMS)

I have fallen in love many times.... always with you. It happened again now my love.

The best and most beautiful things in the world cannot be seen or even touched - they must be felt with the heart. As my love for you.

If I had a single flower for every time I think about you, I could walk forever in my garden of love.

You would find Admiration  
You would find Respect  
and most of all you would find Love  
I LOVE YOU with all of my being  
and I always will!

Love is like war...  
Easy to start...  
Difficult to end...  
Impossible to forget.



### 20 WAYS TO SAY I LOVE YOU

Albanian - Te dua

Bosnian - Volim te

Bulgarian - Obicham te

Czech - Miluji te

Danish - Jeg Elsker Dig

Finnish - Mina rakastan sinua

French – Je t'aime

German-Ich liebe dich

Greek - S'agapo

Hawaiian - Aloha wau ia oi

Hungarian – Szeretlek

Italian - Ti amo

Lithuanian - Tave myliu

Maltese –Inhobbok

Norwegian - Jeg Elsker Deg

Portuguese - Amo-te

Romanian – Te iubesc

Russian - Ya tebya liubliu

Spanish - Te quiero / Te amo

Turkish - Seni Seviyorum Ukrainian

by Flavia Seres, Xth F



## LOVE IN PARIS

Once upon a time, there was a girl, who hated love, couples and Valentine's Day. She didn't really know why she hated this that much, but she did. Maybe the reason was that she didn't find true love and all the boys she liked made her suffer. Her parents decided to take her on a trip to Paris, the city of love, right before 14<sup>th</sup> of February. She wasn't excited at all about going there at that time, but she thought she would have a great time visiting the museums and going shopping .

She finally got to Paris. Everything was so beautiful, except there were red and pink hearts everywhere. She walked through the city center and as she was tired, she sat on a bench in the park near the Eiffel tower. Nearby, a boy was sitting on a bench too and when she looked at him she felt something strange. It was as if something was melting inside her, making her feel lighter happier than ever before. She must have fallen in love with that boy at first sight. and She tried to look at him one more time but her view was suddenly blocked by a group of tourists. They finally left after a few minutes, but the boy wasn't there anymore.

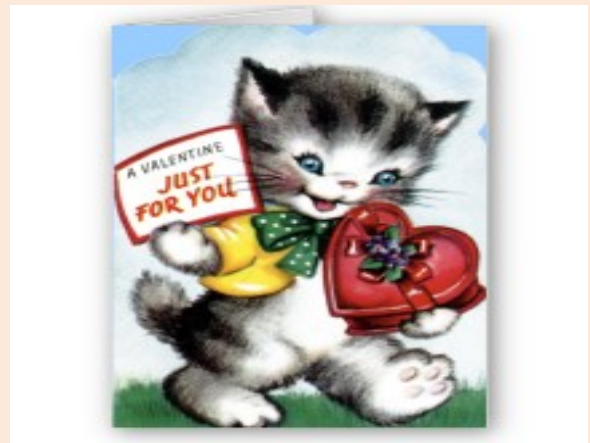
The girl closed her eyes ... the loss and the pain were unbearable as she realized she might not see the boy again. Fortunately, the boy hadn't left the park. When she opened her eyes she saw him in front of her asking permission to sit next to her, to talk to her. They spent all afternoon talking and they realized out that they had many things in common. They promised to meet again in two years' time in the same park

they first met. Somewhere in Paris, of course.

By Cristina Filo, 10th F

## HOPE AND ADAM

Hope was sitting on the floor by the fireplace, staring into the fire, waiting for something, for someone, for a miracle. So many things happened in the last few years, still she had nothing to look back at with a smile. Not since he left. Thinking about him, she always started to smile. It's ridiculous how a person can miss someone so much. She hadn't seen Adam for nine years since he was forced to go abroad with his parents, but his presence was still with her, wherever she went. She kept thinking about their childhood, about how they had fallen in love with each other and about all the moments they had spent together.



Suddenly she heard a light knock on the door, but she kept sitting there looking at it as if in a dream. It couldn't be him. It was impossible. She heard the knock again and after a few moments she pulled herself together and went to the door. When she finally managed to unlock and open the door with trembling hands, she saw a boy

in a brown coat, grey scarf wrapped around his neck and black hat. He seemed to be freezing.

After he took off his hat, reality hit her. It was him. He was standing right in front of her, looking at her with loving eyes. She realized that Adam came back for her.

Right then there was no one who could break them apart.

By Alexandra Stanciu, Xth F

### A LOVE STORY

Once upon a time there was a girl who was born into a small town and a boy who was born into an exotic country. At the age of six, they both moved to the same town. She was raised in the country and he was raised in the city. She grew up dreaming of the city lights and he grew up dreaming of love. When the children were twelve years old, their parents' marriages ended. The girl doubted the existence of lasting love and the boy became a loner and swore he'd never be like his father. She grew into a beautiful young woman and he grew into a handsome young man. But they always felt lonely.



One night, their worlds collided. He saw her in a café across the street and did everything to sit next to her. He made her want to be a better person. She believed in

love again and she felt protected in the presence of a man and he finally learnt what love meant and what it was like to be seen as perfect.

However, fear gnawed into their love. She feared he would be like his father and abandon her and he feared he would be hurting her. So they began to tear each other apart and that was the end of their story, or so it seemed. She kept walking through life and he kept himself busy but she was always on his mind. He could never forgive himself for having broken her heart and she could never trust him fully. But this wasn't the end of their story either, was it?

By Andrada Darlea, 10<sup>th</sup> F

### A NON-TRADITIONAL LOVE STORY

A long long time ago, somewhere in a galaxy, not so far away, in a place known as Valoda, lived a man named Paul. He was just like all the other men in the galaxy, but one day, he surprised them all as he started a pro-war campaign. In vain did he try to make people change their convictions, because the men of Valoda didn't really want to fight in any wars. Actually, Paul just wanted to make Sandy- the girl of his dreams- fall in love with him. He thought that a war would help him prove his best, but he was wrong.

As he couldn't become a war hero, Paul tried to show her how much he loved her in many more or less significant ways. He bought her the most beautiful flowers in the galaxy, but she refused them. He offered her a lot of wonderful little gifts and many boxes of delicious chocolate, but

she never looked at them. He never understood why she didn't love him too. Paul thought that he was ugly, but it wasn't true.

Many years later, after having gone separate ways, he discovered that Sandy had really loved him. She had loved him too much, believing that her influence upon him was not good at all. She thought his love for her would turn him into a fool, but, of course she was wrong.

So, Paul and Sandy lived unhappily ever after, somewhere in a remote galaxy. Loving too much proved to be devastating for these two young people.

By Beatrice Farcutiu -10th F

#### ON LOVE AND MANY OTHER THINGS

There a lot of different kinds of love, for instance, the love for a fluffy puppy, the love for your younger sibling, the love for a warm spring day or the love for your friends. In addition, there is the kind of love a lot of people consider the strongest, the one for the person you would like to marry.



For 20 year- old Scorpius there was no such love. He didn't believe in the idea of "true love" or in that of "a soul mate". Everything that had happened around him proved him right. His father had left him and his mother

when he was twelve years old and two years later his mother was imprisoned. The one girl he had loved and trusted left him for someone else. In fact, Scorpius ended up suffering from a severe depression. He didn't believe he was good enough to be loved, or even to be liked, and therefore he had no friends, no one to confide in. One day he decided to take his own life.

However when he reached the bridge he had wanted to jump off, all his courage left him and he couldn't do it. He sat down and started to cry, not knowing what to do.

Suddenly, a girl his age sat down next to him and asked him what was wrong. The girl realized he was not going to tell her what had happened to him, so she handed him her Ipod and headphones. She told him that music had always cheered her up and that no matter what was wrong with him, music would mend things and make him feel better. That was the day they became best friends.

Years later he brought her back to the bridge. He told her he had something important to tell her.

"Stella, I met you here, on this bridge, exactly two years ago. I knew then that you were special. You told me countless times that I had saved you that day, when actually you are my savior. You showed me what a true friend means, you thought me to trust and to forgive. You taught me what true love means, even if you say you don't believe in it. And most importantly, you believed in me and loved me when no one else did. And for that, I want to spend the rest of my life with you. Would you marry me?"

By Adria Buboiu, 10<sup>th</sup> F

### AGAINST VALENTINE'S DAY

Every single year, at the beginning of February, the world changes into a baby-rose universe, and people everywhere take part willingly in what can be called St. Valentine's Day craziness. In my opinion, with the exception of the Americans, other peoples do not know anything about this holiday and it is stupid for them to celebrate it. I want to bring two solid arguments why Romania should not celebrate this. In what follows, I will argue against celebrating St Valentine's Day.

First, Romanians do not know the legend behind the holiday and furthermore have no actual reason to celebrate it. Sadly enough, Romanians forget about their traditional holidays with much more meaning than Valentine's Day. They take everything from outside and somehow make it ours too. In my opinion, this is making children and adolescents forget all about their heritage and transform them into little robots ruled by the media and the spend-happy society. They are somehow compelled to be in and adopt new holidays without offering any true reasons why they should do it.

Another argument against celebrating Valentine's Day is that people learn to turn love into a material thing. They are pushed to think that you can buy someone's affection with gifts, but the only ones who benefit are those who sell so-called Valentine's Day symbols. There is a whole market out there to get your money. Instead of teaching people to love and cherish their partners every day, they have assigned a day to show your affection. This approach to our feelings could not be more wrong. Moreover, I have to say that people don't actually think anymore. This whole holiday is a pure charade convincing you to spend money. Do you really think they care about who St. Valentine was? If they do, they sure are not

showing it. So, without any regrets I must say that love is not a one-day-only thing. We can offer gifts to whom we love no matter when or what. We do not need a holiday to tell us to do so.

By Georgiana Hurezan , 11th E

### FOR VALENTINE'S DAY

Are you someone who enjoys spending The Valentine's Day doing something specific? Whether you are going on a date at a restaurant or to a movie, it is a way of spending that day once a year. Yet, but is it worth ?

The benefits of celebrating Valentine's Day cannot be denied. To begin with , the couples get to spend a day on their own if they haven't able before. For example, there are some people that tend to forget about the other person. As a result, problems may appear in their relationship. Valentine's Day can be thus a good opportunity to improve or save relationships.

Another advantage of celebrating Valentine's Day is that couples can give each other presents. For example, the boy cand buy her a bouquet of flowers and a box of chocolates. The girl can buy something meaningful that will remind him all the things they share together.

In conclusion, Valentine's Day is worth celebrating. if you have a boyfriend or a girlfriend and you want to escape from your daily routine, have a romantic date with the one you love .

By Alexandra Stanciu, Xth F



### WHY/NOT ST VALENTINE'S DAY ?

- In my opinion, we should celebrate Valentine's Day in Romania even if we have our own traditional holiday called "Dragobete" on the 24<sup>th</sup> of February. Saint Valentine's Day is celebrated every year on 14<sup>th</sup> of February.
- I believe that we should celebrate this day because you can tell the one you love what you feel for him or her by sending a card or a box of chocolate or something else. The ones who form a couple can go downtown and have a romantic dinner.
- Some schools even celebrate this day by throwing a party, after school, where students of all ages come and have fun, they can dance, participate in various contests and spend some time together.



- Another reason is that you can be creative, you can write love poems or letters or you can do a handmade card which is the perfect way to express how you feel about someone.

- I celebrate Valentine's Day -even if I don't have a boyfriend- because I simply like this day.
- In my opinion Valentine's Day is a day of love and romance. A day of chocolate and cards for others, but for many, it is a day of bitter despair and longing.
- Every year when Valentine's Day comes around the corner, I hear my friends whining about how they don't have a boyfriend or a girlfriend. They go on about how much better the day would be if they had someone with whom to share it.



- In my opinion we should celebrate St. Valentine's Day in Romania because it is an interesting and lovely holiday. In our country we have a celebration similar to St. Valentine's Day – Dragobete- but I think it could be a great idea to celebrate love twice : the American style and the Romanian style.
- If we consider both Dragobete and St Valentines, we could celebrate love twice, and I am sure that all of us want to love and be loved. Of course that St. Valentine's Day is not only for couples, it is for everyone who is in love.

## SIGNS TO KNOW HE LOVES YOU

### His eyes sparkle

A guy's eye contact often tells a lot about him and his feelings towards you. Remember this, we often reveal far more than we desire through our eyes. So is he in love with you? If his eyes sparkle with happiness, you've definitely made a great impression on him! You can tell a lot about whether a guy likes you by the way he looks at you, and the way he pays attention to you.

### Common Interests

So take notice of how often he wants to do things with you or go out with you, be it movies, games or chores. If it seems rather frequent, it's a good sign he's into you. And he obviously wants you to think you share a lot of common interests, which makes him more likeable!

### He's overly concerned

Good friends are concerned about you, but a guy who likes you would always be overly concerned. He would remind you about all your appointments, he'd ask you if you've had lunch, he'd offer you a jacket even if it isn't cold, he'd suggest a trip to the doctor even if you just cough once! These are some surefire ways to know whether he's in love with you, but every girl can also sense something in the air, whether it's love or something else.

### He talks about the future

How do you know when a guy's just bragging about his game plan and when he's quietly declaring his love? It's all in the way he talks.

By Alina Morar, 10th F

## SIGNS TO KNOW SHE LOVES YOU

### She makes you laugh and enjoy life

You actually look forward to spending time with her, because you know you will have fun. Being able to laugh together and have fun is part of every good relationship. If she cannot share the joy of life with you easily, she won't be able to cope with the hard times that will inevitably come your way too. Even in the difficult times, she can make you smile, through your tears. This is because she loves you and wants you to be happy.

### She shows genuine concern for you

When a girl falls in love, she will worry about you and won't be able to stay away if she notices you're having troubles. She will let you know that she's there for you in case you need her, and she will be deeply concerned and interested in any problems you're having.

### She looks into your eyes when you talk

This sign is all about the body language. If she looks into your eyes when you talk, you know she is paying full attention to you. Whenever you really want to have a heart to heart discussion, she gives you her full attention, by turning her body towards you, and watching the expression on your face. This is a sign she wants to know what you are really thinking.

### She makes sacrifices for you

Another sign that she really loves you is when she takes the time to be with you and to do the things you love to do. It is easy for her when you do the things she likes to do, but if you've noticed that she's given up these normal activities to be with you, it's an indication that she cares about you a great deal.