

Name: _____

Secret Valentine

by Kelly Hashway

Lauren carried her container of heart shaped cookies into the school. She'd spent all last night decorating them with red and pink frosting. Her class was having a Valentine's Day party, and even though most of the kids thought it was silly, Lauren was excited. She loved Valentine's Day.

"What's in there?" Becca asked as Lauren placed the container on the big table in the front of the classroom.

"Heart shaped cookies. I baked them last night. What did you bring?"

Becca shrugged. "My mom made something."

Lauren sighed. No one was excited for Valentine's Day but her. She looked at all the party food. Someone had made a plate of Jello hearts. Lauren smiled when she saw they had little candy message hearts inside them. Maybe someone else did care.

Everyone sat down and listened while Mrs. Limberg talked about Valentine's Day and passed out a worksheet with a word game. "Now you may pair up to complete the word game, but being that it's Valentine's Day, the pairs must be boy/girl."

Groans echoed around the room, and no one moved.

"Okay, everyone up," Mrs. Limberg said. She grabbed a stack of plates and put one treat on each plate. Then she placed each plate on a desk. "Find the desk with the food item you brought."

Lauren walked over to the plate with her heart shaped cookie. On the desk next to it was a Jello heart. She couldn't help smiling.

Todd sat down next to her.

"You brought the Jello hearts?" Lauren asked.

Todd nodded. "I make them every year."

"Really?"

"Yeah. Valentine's Day isn't just for grown ups. Sometimes it's nice to just—"

"Be nice to people?" Lauren asked.

"Exactly." Todd shrugged. "And it's fun seeing which candy heart message you'll get."



"All right," Mrs. Limberg said. "Now that everyone is paired, please switch party foods with your partner."

Lauren handed her heart shaped cookie to Todd. "I made it myself—icing, sprinkles, and all."

Todd smiled and passed the plate with the Jello heart to Lauren. "I'm glad Mrs. Limberg picked this one."

Lauren looked at the candy heart in the center of the Jello. "Be mine," she read. He wanted to be her valentine.

"Valentine's can be friends, right?" Todd asked.

"Sure."

Todd took a bite of the cookie. "We can be secret valentines."

"Secret valentines?"

"Yeah. We're the only two in the class who like the holiday."

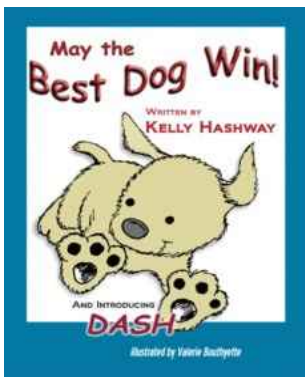
Lauren looked around the room. Her classmates were smiling and eating the yummy valentine treats. "You know, I kind of think maybe they're all secret valentines."

Todd laughed. "Yeah. The secret is that they don't realize they like Valentine's Day."

As Lauren ate her Jello heart, she couldn't help thinking this was her favorite Valentine's Day ever.



About the Author



Kelly Hashway's picture book, *May the Best Dog Win*, is now available!

Dash has the perfect life until the Super Sweeper 5000 shows up. Sweeper runs all over the house sucking up the leftover food scraps, and he even gets his own room! But Dash won't give up his place as the favorite dog without a fight.

Hashway, Kelly. *May the Best Dog Win*. ISBN: 9780984589081

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1. When does this story take place?
 - a. in Mrs. Limburg's classroom
 - b. at Lauren's house
 - c. on a February morning or afternoon
 - d. in the evening on Valentine's Day
2. What snack did Lauren bring to school? _____
3. Who brought the Jello hearts to school? _____
4. What was inside the Jello hearts?

5. What does Lauren mean when she says, "You know, I kind of think maybe they're all secret valentines."?
 - a. Mrs. Limburg paired all of the students up with their best friends.
 - b. Everyone is enjoying Valentine's Day, even though they didn't act excited about it at first.
 - c. They all laughed when they read messages on their candy hearts.
 - d. They don't enjoy Valentine's day as much as Todd and Lauren do.
6. Read the sentence below and choose the best definition for the underlined word.

Groans echoed across the room.

The underlined word means....
 - a. loud noise
 - b. many people talking at once
 - c. sound made when someone is disappointed
 - d. made a repeating sound

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Fill in the missing letters to create a vocabulary word from the story. Then write the full word on the line. Be sure you spell each word correctly.

1. ___ e ___ o r ___ ___ i n g

hint: adding to something to make it look nice

2. s t ___ ___ k

hint: pile of items

3. ___ e ___ l ___

hint: gelatin snack

4. ___ e s ___ ___ g e

hint: short note

5. ___ w ___ t c ___

hint: trade or exchange

6. ___ ___ c r e ___

hint: something you don't let people know about

7. ___ a v ___ ___ i t e

hint: most-liked

ANSWER KEY

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- When does this story take place? **c**
 - in Mrs. Limburg's classroom
 - at Lauren's house
 - on a February morning or afternoon
 - in the evening on Valentine's Day
- What snack did Lauren bring to school? **heart-shaped cookies**
- Who brought the Jello hearts to school? **Todd**
- What was inside the the Jello hearts?
candy hearts with messages on them
- What does Lauren mean when she says, "You know, I kind of think maybe they're all secret valentines."? **b**
 - Mrs. Limburg paired all of the students up with their best friends.
 - Everyone is enjoying Valentine's Day, even though they didn't act excited about it at first.
 - They all laughed when they read messages on their candy hearts.
 - They don't enjoy Valentine's day as much as Todd and Lauren do.
- Read the sentence below and choose the best definition for the underlined word.
Groans echoed across the room.
The underlined word means.... **d**
 - loud noise
 - many people talking at once
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ANSWER KEY

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Fill in the missing letters to create a vocabulary word from the story. Then write the full word on the line. Be sure you spell each word correctly.

- d e c o r a t i n g decorating
hint: adding to something to make it look nice
- s t a c k stack
hint: pile of items
- J e l l o Jello
hint: gelatin snack
- m e s s a g e message
hint: short note
- s w i t c h switch
hint: trade or exchange
- s e c r e t secret
hint: something you don't let people know about
- f a v o r i t e favorite
hint: most-liked