

## **Roses Are Pink, You really stink**

### **Overview**

Students will hear a story about a character who hurts his classmate's feelings by writing a mean poem in her Valentine's Day card. Student will then share experiences in which they hurt someone feelings or in which their feelings were hurt. After each experience is shared, students will make a fold in a paper heart. After everyone has shared, students will see how "wrinkled" someone's heart can become when hurtful things are said.

### **Lesson Objectives**

Students will understand the impact that hurtful words can have on their classmates' feelings  
Students will use kind words and treat others' hearts in a caring manner.

### **Materials Needed**

Book – *Roses are Pink, Your Feet Really Stink* by Diane De Groat (1997, HarperCollins)

Red construction paper

Scissors

### **Procedures**

Give students pre-cut construction paper hearts (or have students cut their own hearts and tie in a math symmetry lesson and some fine-motor skills.)

Have students sit in a circle with their paper hearts.

Read the book *Roses are Pink, Your Feet Really Stink*.

Ask students how they would feel if someone wrote something mean in their Valentine's Day card.

Allow 4 or 5 students to respond.

Next, invite students to share stories about times that they hurt someone's feelings or that someone hurt their feelings. The teacher can model by sharing a story first.

After each person shares a story, have everyone make a fold in their hearts.

After everyone has had an opportunity to share and the hearts have been folded several times, ask students to unfold their hearts and describe how their hearts look.

Discuss that every time we say hurtful things to others, we put "wrinkles" in their hearts that can never be ironed out, so we should always try to say nice things to our friends.

### **Assessment**

The teacher will observe behavior in the weeks following the exercise and commend students when they are observed saying nice things to others, or remind students about the wrinkled hearts when they are observed saying unkind things. A data chart can be used to track success.

### **Extensions and Adaptations**

Teacher may choose to teach a lesson on symmetry by allowing students to cut their own hearts.

### **Credit**

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