Leon has a crush. A BIG crush. A let-her-cut-in-line-at-the-water-fountain crush. And he’s made the perfect valentine to express his love. But this valentine has other ideas. “Love is yucky, kid! Valentine’s Day is all about CANDY!” the card yells and leaps out the window.

The chase is on for poor Leon as he gets advice from boys (“Eew!”) and girls (“How romantic!”) and a group of teenagers (“Risky!”) on whether or not to give Zoey Maloney his valentine—if he can catch it! Will true love triumph?

This funny book offers a totally fresh take on the most complex holiday of them all. Saying “I love you” has never been so yucky—or so sweet.

★ “A laugh-out-loud, fast-paced adventure . . . . Get this now—it’s better than candy.” —Kirkus Reviews, starred

Valentine Activity Kit
Show that special someone you care by creating your very own valentine man.

“No, no, no! Just give ’em some candy!”

Fold a piece of red construction paper down the middle and draw half a heart shape against the fold. Cut along the line, unfold the paper, and you’ll have a perfectly symmetrical heart.

“Lollipops are perfectly symmetrical, too! Chocolate kisses, caramel squares . . . they’re all symmetrical!”

Cut four strips of paper (two long and two short) from the scraps of your original piece and fold them accordion-style. Glue or tape the strips onto the heart to make arms and legs for your valentine man. Add a small heart at the end of each strip for hands and feet.

“Strips of licorice are tasty! Strips of taffy, strips of candy buttons, strips of . . .”

Add eyes, a nose, and a mouth to your valentine. Be creative! Use crayons, markers, stickers, or ribbons to create your facial features—whatever you have handy.

“I’ve got jelly beans. Want ’em? They’d make good eyes.”

Now turn your valentine man over and write a message from your heart on the back.

“Blech! Yuck! Disgusting! Don’t do that!”

Go on. Tell that special someone how you really feel. You just might have the best Valentine’s Day ever.
Can you find key words from *The Yuckiest, Stinkiest, Best Valentine Ever* hidden within the letters below? Words can appear backward, forward, vertically, or diagonally.

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S O R Z C X M W T E U S P N Y
T E B H C A N T T N K E O D D
U X T R Q A R S F I M C O Q K
M W U A Z B E A X T S R D T S
Z S X C L I X W M N U E R P X
H W K T K O N W E E T T R P O
O H R N N Z C D X L L S Y B G
Q R I E V O L O D A L S E A U
C T W F D M S D H V G T H B L
S M Z G T H P Y U C K I E S T
D Z E N C F F J Z P K E N K C
E W R K U K X J E S W Y N X X
I C A I W F X H P P E L Q A K
L O Y Y S T R A E H Y D N A C
E V W F P Z J D R N X F L L P
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From a box of candy hearts, select five hearts of one color and five hearts of another color. Use these hearts as playing pieces and challenge your friends to a tic-tac-toe tournament! If you don’t have actual candy hearts, cut out the hearts from this page and use them as playing pieces.
Valentines

Make valentines for your friends (and maybe a special someone)!

SUPPLIES NEEDED:
- Colored construction paper
- Scissors (ones that cut fancy edges would be fun!)
- Glue stick
- Markers, sequins, stickers, ribbon scraps, tiny buttons, etc.—anything with which to decorate your valentines

Print this page on white cardstock using a color printer, if possible. Carefully cut out the valentines below. Cut construction paper into 4x3 inch rectangles that are slightly larger than your valentines. Use a glue stick to affix each valentine to a construction paper rectangle. Use markers and the embellishment materials to decorate the borders of your valentines. If you wish, write a note on the back of each valentine. Be sure to sign your name! Create envelopes for your valentines on the following page.
Create envelopes for your valentine!

Print this page on white paper using a color printer, if possible. Print as many copies as you need to create an envelope for each of your valentines. Carefully cut out the envelope and fold where indicated. Use a glue stick, tape or staples to seal the two side seams. Insert your valentine and fold the flap over the opening. Use a sticker, tape, or glue stick to seal your envelope.