



Love Letters to Nature

Goals:

- Students will read a story, discuss it, and relate the story to their own life.
- Students will learn the parts of a letter.
- Students will write a "love letter" to an insect or animal that they're afraid of.

NC Foundations for Early Learning and Development Goals

Addressed:

Goal LDC-2: Children participate in conversations with peers and adults in one-one-one, small, and larger group interactions.

Indicator: (older preschoolers): Initiate and participate in conversations related to interests of their own or the persons they are communicating with.

Goal LDS-5: Children describe familiar people, places, things, and events.

Indicator: (older preschoolers): Describe experiences and create and/or retell longer narratives.

Common Core Standards Addressed:

RL.K.2 With prompting and support, retell familiar stories, including key details.

RL.K.4 With prompting and support, ask and answer questions about words in a text that suggest feelings or appeal to the senses.

W.K.3 Use a combination of drawing, dictating, and writing to narrate a single event or several loosely linked events, tell about the events in the order in which they occurred, and with guidance and support, provide a reaction to what happened. a. With guidance and support from adults, respond to questions and suggestions from adults and/or peers and add details to strengthen writing as needed.

W.K.6 With guidance and support from adults, recall information from experiences or gather information from provided sources to answer a question.

Materials

- Copies of letter writing handout (next page)
- Paper or journals
- Pencils

Activity

Read the book *The Thing About Bees: A Love Letter* with your class, then discuss the story. Why do students think the author chose to write a love letter to bees? What are some of the reasons that he is afraid of bees?





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What are some of the things he loves or appreciates about bees? Have your students ever learned to love or appreciate something that they were afraid of at first? How did they overcome their fear?

After the discussion, pass out the Letterwriting Handout and outline the parts of a letter (Greeting, Date/Header, Body of letter, Closing, Signature, Postscript). Have the students write a love letter to an insect or animal that they're afraid of.



Love Letters to Nature

February 14, 2021 [Date/header]

Dear Students, [Greeting]

[Body of letter] I hope you enjoyed reading or listening to the book, *The Thing About Bees: A Love Letter*. I thought it was wonderful that the author, Shabazz Larkin, wanted his children and other people to not fear bees, as he had as a child. I wonder how many of you are afraid of bees? Or maybe you are afraid of other insects or animals? Do you think you could write a love letter to that creature, so that others might not be afraid but might actually learn something too? I grew up afraid of bats and so I decided to write a love letter to bats. Hope my letter gives you some inspiration! Oh, and happy Valentine's Day!

[Closing] Sincerely,
[Signature] Emily Jackson

P.S. [Postscript] I know your teacher is trying to help you understand how to write a letter. I included the parts of the letter in [] to give you an idea of how to write yours. You also might want to check out these books, that are written like letters, to give you some ideas. Good luck!

- **The Gardener** by Sarah Stewart
- **Dear Rebecca, Winter is Here** by Jean Craighead George
- **Click, Clack, Moo, Cows That Type** by Doreen Cronin
- **With Love, Little Red Hen** by Alma Flor Ada

February 14, 2021

Dear Bats,

Maybe it was because I watched too many vampire movies, but when I was young, say 7 or 8 years old, I was afraid of bats. Not that I even met or was around any bats, I was just afraid. But now I know that bats are really cool. I read a book (and it was made into a song) called B-B-B-Bats by Norma Gentner and I learned so much! You eat lots of bugs (1200 insects an hour!) that would bite me, like mosquitoes...yuck! You eat bugs that not only pester me but also chew holes in farmers' crops. I didn't know that you were also pollinators! You pollinate and scatter seed so that humans can enjoy a wide variety of fruits! So, we need bats and I am no longer afraid. In fact, I am grateful. This is my love letter to you - Happy Valentine's Day, Bats!

Your friend,
Emily Jackson

Now that you have learned to write a letter, maybe you want to send a Valentine's letter to a friend or a member of your family!

Growing Minds is a program of ASAP (Appalachian Sustainable Agriculture Project).
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