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МЕТОДИЧЕСКИЕ РЕКОМЕНДАЦИИ ПО ПРОВЕДЕНИЮ ПРАЗДНИКОВ “HALLOWEEN”, “CHRISTMAS”, “NEW YEAR”, “ST. VALENTINE’S DAY”, “ALL FOOL’S DAY”

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От автора

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Данные методические рекомендации включают общую информацию о праздниках, традиционных в англоговорящих странах (HALLOWEEN, CHRISTMAS, NEW YEAR, ST.VALENTINE’S DAY, ALL FOOL’S DAY), об особенностях их празднования. Кроме того, автор предлагает вашему вниманию варианты сценариев, которые можно либо использовать в готовом виде, либо брать за основу при составлении своих собственных.


Приведенные в брошюре сценарии использовались для проведения внеурочных мероприятий и "праздничных" занятий со студентами I, II, III и IV курсов факультетов психологии, философии, филологии РГУ.

Автор надеется, что данные методические рекомендации помогут в активном знакомстве с традициями и праздниками англоговорящих стран, а также послужат источником рождения новых творческих идей.
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HALLOWEEN (OCTOBER 31)

On October 31st, dozens of children dressed in costumes knock on their neighbours' doors and yell, «Trick or treat» when the door opens. Pirates and princesses, ghosts and popular heroes of the day all hold bags open to catch the candy or other goodies that the neighbours drop in. As they give each child a treat, the neighbours exclaim over the costumes and try to guess who is under the mask.

School dances and neighbourhood parties (called block parties) are popular among young and old alike. More and more adults celebrate Halloween. They dress up like historical or political figures and go to masquerade parties with games and treats.

Certain pranks such as soaping car windows and tipping over garbage cans are expected. But partying and pranks are not the only things that Halloweeners enjoy doing. Some collect money to buy food and medicine for needy children around the world.

A VERY OLD FESTIVAL

Halloween. A time for games, fun, fortune-telling, for ghost stories and making mischief. For centuries, people believe that Halloween was a night when witches walked - or flew, - and ghosts and spirits were on the loose. Ordinary folk also believed they could see into the future.

Today, many people say that Halloween is just an excuse for a good time. After all, who believes in ghosts and magic today?

In fact, many people do. Yet, what makes Halloween so special is its long and colourful history. For all the fun and games, it is part of the history of Britain, Ireland and northern France - part of their 2,000-year-old Celtic past. It belongs to North America, too.

Halloween was originally known as the Festival of the Dead, and it had a strong hold on our Celtic and Saxon ancestors. The Church wanted to break this hold, and to do this called it “All Hallow’s Eve”. Hallow means holy, holy man or saint. This later became Halloween, and the Church made November 1 All Saints’ Day. But Halloween was never really a Christian festival.

HALLOWEEN CUSTOMS AND SUPERSTITIONS

Did you ever wonder how certain customs and superstitions got started? Here are the roots of some Halloween beliefs and activities.

COSTUMES.

A long time ago, people feared evil spirits - especially at Halloween. By putting on costumes and masks, they hoped the evil spirits would leave them
alone. Sometimes, in fact, a person was chosen to dress up and lead the ghosts out of the town.

**JACK-O’-LANTERN.**

An old Irish legend tells of a stingy man named Jack who was ordered to wander the Earth after his death, searching for a resting place. Because of all his deeds, Jack was forbidden to enter heaven. When the devil gave Jack a piece of burning coal, Jack stuffed it into a turnip, making a lantern to help light his way.

Irish children used to carve smiling faces on turnips. They called the carved turnips "bogies", and they carried the bogies on Halloween night to scare away witches.

When many Irish people moved to the United States, they brought their Halloween beliefs and customs with them. But instead of turnips, Irish children in America carved pumpkins. And when they put a candle inside, the Irish remembered the story of bad old Jack and his lantern. The carved pumpkin became a jack-o' lantern.

**TRICK-OR-TREATING.**

Long ago in Ireland, some people celebrated Halloween night. They would put on white robes and horsehead masks, and then march from farm to farm begging for food or money in the name of the old Druid priest, Muck Olla. In exchange for the treat, the costumed beggars offered wishes for good luck and prosperity.

In England, a custom similar to trick-or-treating was called "souling" or "soul-caking". On All Souls' Day, the poor begged for soul cakes - square buns with currants. In return for the soul cakes, the beggars promised to pray for any dead relatives of the person giving cakes. Later, children started "souling", getting apples, buns, and sometimes money in return.

When the Irish came to the United States, tricks were added to the begging for treats. Halloween pranksters took gates off hinges, soaped windows, rang doorbells and ran away, and then blamed everything on the "little people" or "fairy folks".

**SUPERSTITIONS**

Many Halloween superstitions started because people wanted to know what would happen to them in the future.

♥ Girls would throw a nut into a fire to find out whether their boyfriends still loved them. If the nut burned, their boyfriends still loved them. But if the nut burst, the boyfriends did not care any more.

♥ If a cat sat next to you at Halloween, you would have good fortune. If the cat jumped on your lap, you would enjoy fantastic luck.

♥ You could make a wish come true by eating a crust of bread before going to bed on Halloween night.
A person would throw a stone into the fire to find out whether he could expect to live much longer. If the stone rolled away from the fire, the person who threw the stone would soon die.

The Irish would cook up a dish in which they placed a ring, a thimble, a tiny doll, and a coin. If you got the ring, you would be married within a year. If you got a thimble, you’d never marry. If you found the doll in your serving, you would have children. And if you received the coin, great wealth soon come to you.

**MAGIC TESTS, CHANTS, CHARMS**

Halloween became a great fortune-telling night. People used charms, or magic tests, to make the spirits tell their future. They said magic chants to make their wishes come true.

Who is my true love? Whom shall I marry? What is his name? When shall I die?

Apples were as popular as nuts. The apple-paring test is hundreds of years old. Peel an apple round and round in one piece. Swing the paring over your head three times. Throw it over your left shoulder, chanting:

**BY THIS PARING LET ME DISCOVER,**

**THE INITIAL LETTER OF MY TRUE LOVER.**

The paring should fall to form the first letter of your true love’s name.

The "Three Luggies" is another old test. Luggies were bowls with handles like Druid lamps. Put three bowls in a row. Fill one with clean water, one with dirty water, and leave one empty. Each player must be **blindfolded**. He turns around three times then dips his hand into one of the bowls. This test must be used to tell whom you would marry. But the bowls might stand for any fortune. For example, the bowl of clean water could stand for much money. The dirty water could stand for little money, and the empty bowl for no money at all. Or, the bowls might stand for jobs, travel, luck, fame, and so on. The clean water will always stand for the best fortune and the empty bowl for the worst.

Many charms were tried to make dreams tell the fortune. Boys cut ten ivy leaves. They threw one away and put others under the pillows. Girls put a small piece of wood in a glass of water. They slept with this beside their pillows. Many other things were done to bring on dreams.
HALLOWEEN TREATS

DRIED PUMPKIN SEEDS

After carving your pumpkin, separate the pulp from the seeds. Rinse the seeds and spread them out to dry. The next day, add enough melted butter or margarine to coat each seed. Spread the seeds onto a cookie sheet and bake for 20 min in a 300-degree oven or until they are slightly brown.

CARAMEL APPLES

Take the paper wrapping off about 100 caramels and put them in a saucepan. Put the saucepan over a pan of boiling water. Boil the water until the caramels melt. Put a wooden stick into the top of each apple, dip the apple into the caramel. Let them cool on wax paper, and enjoy!

CRUNCH BUNCH

Put 1 cup of potato crisps in a polythene bag and crush with your hands. Put the crisps in a bowl, add 1/2 cup of sugar, 1/2 cup of chopped almonds or hazelnuts, 1 cup of soft butter, 2 cups of flour; and blend with your clean hands until the mixture is soft and sticky. Grease a cookie sheet. Pick up small amounts of mixture and roll them into ping-pong ball-sized shapes. Place them on the cookie sheet spaced well apart and carefully flatten each one into a biscuit shape with a fork. Cook in an oven at 180*C for 10-15 min - wait till they're golden brown and then cool.

GLOSSARY

costumes n. special clothes for the occasion
"Trick or treat" an expression used by children at Halloween "Give us a treat, or we'll play a joke on you!"
pirate(s) n. a robber on the sea
goody(ies) n. sweet food that children like to eat
treat n. a reward
exclaim over v. phrase, to admire openly
witch(es) n. a woman said to use magic, esp. to do evil things
ghost(s) n. (a spirit of) a dead person
ancestor(s) n. a person earlier than a grandparent
lantern n. a container for a light from a frame, used to protect it from the wind
saint n. a person who lived a holy and worthwhile life
pumpkin(s) n. a large, round, orange-coloured vegetable
beg(ged) v. to ask very anxiously and eagerly
pray v. to speak to God
**superstition**  n. belief in the power of magic

**lap**  n. the front part of a person from the waist to the knees, when sitting

**thimble**  n. a cap put on the end of the finger when sewing

**blindfold(ed)**  v. to cover one’s eyes with a piece of cloth

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**DISCUSSION POINTS:**

- Is Halloween celebrated in your country?
- Do you believe in ghosts? Why/why not? What about vampires?
- Do you know any ghost stories? If so, tell them to the class.
- Would you spend the night alone in a haun ting house? What would you take with you?
- Are you a superstitious person?
- Do you believe in magic?
- Have you ever tried to know what would happen to you in the future? In what way?

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**THE HALLOWEEN PARTY**

**CHARACTERS:**

Main Witch           Voland            Pessimist
Jack-O’-Lantern       Guella             Witch (With A Poem)
Merry Ghost           Begemot          Witch (With A Scary Story)
Dracula               Koroviev         Sad Ghosts

**THE AUDITORIUM IS DECORATED WITH THE PLACARDS:** "LONG LIFE FOR ALL THE WITCHES AND WIZARDS!", "DOWN WITH THE PEOPLE!", AND PUMPKINS WITH THE CANDLES INSIDE.

**MAIN WITCH:** Hello, dear witches, wizards, ghosts and other friends of mine! We’ve gathered here to celebrate the most important holiday - Halloween! Nobody could have described our festival better than John Updike. Listen to his poem "October". Dear Witch, you are welcome!

**WITCH:** The month is amber,
Gold and brown.
Blue ghosts of smoke
In a black cat’s eyes
Before he spits.
At last small witches,
Float through the town. Goblins, hags,
Great V’s of geese And pirates armed
Honk over head, With paper bags.
And maples turn Their costumes hinged
A fairy red. On safety pins,
Frost bites the lawn, Go haunt a night
The stars are slits Of pumpkin grins.

**MAIN WITCH:** I see that Jack-O’-Lantern is here. Will you tell us your sad story, Jack?

**JACK-O’-LANTERN (with a pumpkin):** My name is Jack and here is my lantern made from a pumpkin. As you see I’ve cut out slits for two eyes, a nose and a mouth, and put a lighted candle inside. I used to play practical jokes on the devil and I am punished for it. I am not permitted to enter heaven and have to walk on and on over the earth. As you see, my story is sad.

**MAIN WITCH:** Poor Jack! Please, don’t be so sad tonight! We would not have such a lovely holiday without you! Look, everybody is merry... Oh, no, I’m afraid, not everybody. Do you see a band of ghosts? They are coming here. I think they are gloomy.

(The band of sad ghosts approaches)

**MAIN WITCH:** Dear friends! What’s the matter? Why are you so sad?

**SAD GHOST:** Oh, no, dear Witch, we are not sad. We are in lyrical mood. And we’d like to sing a song. The song has a chorus with quite simple words. Perhaps, some of you would like to join in with us?

(The song "Cockles and Mussles" See APPENDIX)

(Merry Ghost approaches)

**MERRY GHOST:** This story is very interesting. And who knows, how old the oldest ghost is?.. I know! Listen. The city of York in Britain was an important centre for the Romans, who built a camp where York Minster stands today. During recent excavations under the Minster a man who was working there saw half a Roman soldier marching towards him. As the soldier came nearer he saw the other half below the level of the floor. Then he understood that the man was walking at the level of the old Roman Road. The soldier walked past and slowly disappeared. So, the ghost of the Roman soldier in York is nearly 19 hundred years old! And it’s the oldest among us!
**MAIN WITCH:** That’s very interesting information! Thank you, Merry Ghost!.. Oh, let me introduce the King of Vampires to you. Mr Dracula, we’d like to greet you at our party!

**DRACULA:** In my turn, I congratulate you on this holiday on behalf of all the vampires. As you know, vampires are dead people who come back at night to drink the blood of living people! Tonight we’ll drink to your health!

**MAIN WITCH:** Thank you! And let’s do our best to make people scared and dissatisfied. There are no optimists among us. So, let’s listen to a Pessimist.

**PESSIMIST:**

Nothing to do but work,  Nothing to sing but songs
Nothing to eat but food,  Ah, well, alas! alack!
Nothing to wear but clothes  Nowhere to go but out,
To keep one from going nude.  Nowhere to come but back.
Nothing to breathe but air,  Nothing to see but sights,
Quick as a flash 'tis gone;  Nothing to quench but thirst,
Nowhere to fall but off,  Nothing to have but what we’ve got.
Nowhere to stand but on.  Thus through life we are cursed.
Nothing to comb but hair,  Nothing to strike but a gait;
Nowhere to sleep but in bed,  Everything moves that goes.
Nothing to weep but tears,  Nothing at all but common sense
Nothing to bury but dead.  Can ever withstand these woes.

**MAIN WITCH:** You are certainly right. Life is so sad. Besides the sources of evil may do a lot of awful things. Listen to the song about poor Clementine.

*(The song "Clementine" See APPENDIX)*

**MAIN WITCH:** No Halloween party is complete without at least one scary story. Who will tell us one?

**WITCH:** I will. Let’s crowd together. Please, sit down around me and listen.

There was an old woman who lived all by herself, and she was very lonely. Sitting in the kitchen one night, she said, "Oh, I wish I had some company".

No sooner had she spoken than down the chimney tumbled two feet from which the flash had rotten. The old woman’s eyes bulged with terror.

Then two legs dropped to the hearth and attached themselves to the feet. Then a body tumbled down, then two arms, and man’s head.
As the old woman watched, the parts came together into a great, tall man. The man danced around and around the room. Faster and faster he went. Then he stopped, and he looked into her eyes.

"What do you come for?" she asked in a small voice that shivered and shook.

"What do I come for?" he said. "I come - for YOU!"

(WITCH shouts and jumps at the person near her).

**MAIN WITCH:** I can't help introducing these people to you! Mr Voland and his company!

**VOLAND:** Dear friends! Our best wishes on this day, the most important day for all of us! Meet my friends: witch Guella, Begemot and Koroviev! We prepared some interesting attractions for you!

**BEGEMOT (brings a deep bowl with water, a fork and some apples):** The most amusing attraction is waiting for you. You have to catch an apple in the water with the help of a fork. I wish you good luck!.. Wait a minute. You must not see anything. I’ll tie this beautiful scarf in such a way that you’ll see nothing. Try your luck!

**GUELLA (hangs a paper donkey on the wall or on the blackboard):** Please, come here and look at this donkey. He has lost his tail, but I have found it. Here it is. If you manage to fix it on its proper place you’ll be given a prize. But let me tie your eyes with the scarf.

**KOROVIEV (has eight paper shoes):** Shoeing chairs, to my mind, is one of the most exciting attractions. You can see two chairs some distance away. I want you to be divided into two teams. I'll call students from each team one after another. Each of them is to come up to the chair with his eyes closed and try his or her best to shoe one of the legs of the chair.

**VOLAND:** If you want to know what awaits you in the nearest future, you are welcome to my place. My assistant Begemot will choose a card for you and I’ll tell you everything.

- An old friend will come back into your life, bringing new problems.
- In three days you will receive an exciting offer.
- Money will come to you at the end of the week.
- You will have a small accident on Sunday - nothing serious.
- This will be a good time for love, but there will be a serious misunderstanding with somebody close to you.
You will meet somebody who could change your life.

Something very strange will happen next Tuesday.

The nearest time will be terrible.

There will be bad news the day after tomorrow; but the bad news will turn to good.

You will make an unexpected journey, and you will find something very strange at the end of it.

You will have trouble with a person who loves you.

A letter will bring you a very great surprise.

**MAIN WITCH:** Dear friends! Our party is not over yet! Sit at the table and taste our Halloween treats.

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**CHRISTMAS DAY (DECEMBER 25)**

Christmas is a joyful religious holiday when Christians celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ. The Christmas story comes from the Bible. An angel appeared to shepherds and told them that a **Savior** had been born to Mary and Joseph in a **stable** in Bethlehem. Three Wise Men from the East (the Magi) followed a **wondrous** star which led them to the baby Jesus, to whom they paid **homage** and presented gifts of gold, **frankincense**, and **myrrh**.

To people all over the world, Christmas is a season of giving and receiving presents. In Scandinavian and other European countries, Father Christmas, or Saint Nicholas, comes into houses in the night and leaves gifts for the children. Saint Nicholas is represented as a kind man with a red **cloak** and long white beard. He visited houses and left gifts, bringing people happiness in the coldest month of the year. Another character, the Norse God Odin, rode on a magical flying horse across the sky in the winter to reward people with gifts. These different legends passed across the ages to make the present day Santa Claus.

Many children believe that Santa Claus lives at the North Pole with his wife. All year he lists the names of children, both those who have been good and those who have been bad. He decides what presents to give to the good children. He **oversees** the manufacturing and wrapping of the presents by his helpers.

Santa Claus supposedly gets his list of toys from the millions of children who write to him at the North Pole.

On December 24, Christmas Eve, Santa **hitches** his eight **reindeer** to a **sleigh**, and loads it with presents. The reindeer pull him and his sleigh through the...
sky to deliver presents to children all around the world, that is, if they had been good all year.

Santa Claus exists only in our imaginations. But he, Saint Nicholas, and Father Christmas are spirits of giving. Christmas has been associated with gift-giving since the Wise Men brought gifts to welcome the newborn Jesus Christ.

Another important custom of Christmas is to send and receive Christmas cards, which are meant to help express the sentiment of the season. Some are religious in nature; others are more secular. People begin sending Christmas cards early in December to friends, acquaintances, and co-workers.

On Christmas Eve, there are evening church services, which everyone attends. Attention is focused on the nativity scene, while all join in singing carols. On Christmas Day, there are other religious ceremonies at churches which families attend before they make their rounds to visit friends and relatives.

The Christmas table looks much like a feast of turkey or ham, potatoes and pie. No Christmas is complete without lots of desserts, and nothing symbolises Christmas more than baked breads and cookies hot from the oven. There are traditional desserts, like other Christmas customs, they were started long ago in other parts of the world. Guests bring English fruitcake or plum pudding as presents to their hosts. Italians eat "Crostoli", fried bread spiced with orange peel. As an ending for the Christmas banquet, German people eat "Pfeffernuesse", a bread full of sweet spices. Doughnuts are a holiday offering in many Ukrainian homes. Norwegian "Berlinerkrasner" is a wreath-shaped cookie: dozens are made, but few are left by Christmas morning! Candy doesn't remain for long, either, during the holiday weeks. Hard candies such as peppermint candy canes and curly green and red ribbon candy are traditional gifts and goodies.

At Christmas Eve gatherings, adults drink eggnog, a drink made of cream, milk, sugar, beaten eggs and brandy or rum. Plenty of eggnog or hot cocoa is on hand in colder climates for carollers, or people who go from house to house to sing Christmas carols to their neighbours.

Long ago, each child hung a stocking, or sock, over the fireplace. Santa entered down the chimney and left candy and presents inside the socks for the children. Today the tradition is carried on, but the socks are now large red sock-shaped fabric bags still called stockings. Each child can’t wait to open his or her eyes to see what Santa has left in the stocking.

HOPE YOUR CHRISTMAS DREAMS COME TRUE
AND BRING HAPPINESS TO YOU!

MAY THIS HOLY SEASON
BRING YOU HAPPINESS!
GLOSSARY

Saviour n. one who saves or brings salvation; in Christianity, Jesus Christ

stable n. a farm building where animals are kept

wondrous adj. remarkable; extraordinary

homage n. respect; honour

frankincense n. material from a special East African or Arabian tree which makes a fragrant smell when it is burned

myrrh n. material from a special East African or Arabian tree which is used in making perfumes

cloak n. a long, loose outer garment without sleeves

oversee(s) v. to supervise

hitch(es) v. to connect

reindeer n. deer-like animal living in cold regions

sleigh n. vehicle with runners pulled by animals over snow

exist(s) v. to live

imagination (s) n. ability to form a picture or idea in the mind

nativity scene n. phrase, an exhibit of statues or figures which present the birth of Jesus Christ with Mary, the shepherds and the Wise Men

make rounds v. phrase, to visit one place after another

orange peel n. skin of an orange

DISCUSSION POINTS:

☆ When is the birth of Jesus Christ celebrated in your country?
☆ What symbolises this holiday in your country?
☆ Do you believe in the existence of Father Christmas?
☆ How do children receive the Christmas gifts in your country?
Tell the class how Christmas or New Year is celebrated in your family.
Do you stay with your family or visit your friends on this day?
Does your mother cook anything special for this day?

THE KING IS BORN

God sent the angel Gabriel to a virgin girl named Mary who lived in Nazareth, a town in Galilee. Mary was from the family of David and was engaged to marry a man named Joseph. The angel said to Mary, "Greetings! The Lord is with you. He wants to bless you."

But Mary didn’t understand what the angel said. Mary wondered, "What does this mean?"

The angel said to her, "Don’t be afraid, Mary, because God is very pleased with you. Listen! You will become pregnant. You will give birth to a baby boy. And you will name him Jesus. He will be great. People will call him the Son of the Most High. The Lord will give him the authority of David, his ancestor. Jesus will rule over the people of Jacob forever. Jesus’ kingdom will never end."

Mary said to the angel, "How will this happen? I am not married."

The angel said to Mary, "The Holy Spirit will come to you and the power of the Most High God will cover you. The baby will be holy. He will be called the Son of God."

Mary said, "I am the servant girl of the Lord God. Let this thing you have said happen to me!" Then the angel went away.

All this happened to make clear the full meaning of the things the Lord said through the prophet Isaiah: "A virgin will be pregnant and will give birth to a son. He will be called "Immanuel", meaning "God with us."

AN ANGEL APPEARS TO JOSEPH

Mary was engaged to marry Joseph. But before they married, Mary learned that she was pregnant. She was pregnant by the power of the Holy Spirit. Joseph was a good man and he didn’t want to bring shame to Mary before the people. He planned to separate himself from her secretly.

But after Joseph thought about this, an angel of the Lord came to him in a dream. The angel said, "Joseph, son of David, don’t be afraid to accept Mary as your wife. The baby that is in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will give birth to a son. You will name the son ‘Jesus’ (meaning ‘salvation’). Give him that name because he will save his people from their sins."

When Joseph woke up, he did as the angel told him. Joseph married Mary, but he had no sexual union with her until she gave birth to the son.

JESUS IS BORN IN BETHLEHEM
Augustus Caesar, the emperor of Rome, sent out an order to all the countries under Roman rule. The order said that all the people must travel back to their home towns to be counted.

So Joseph left Nazareth and went to his hometown of Bethlehem in Judea. This town was known as the town of David. Joseph went there because he was from the family of David.

While Joseph and Mary were in Bethlehem, the time came for Mary to have the baby. She gave birth to her first son Jesus. There were no rooms left in the hotel, so Mary gave birth to Jesus in a stable. Mary wrapped the baby with cloths and laid the baby in a box where cattle were fed.

AN ANGEL TELLS SOME SHEPHERDS ABOUT JESUS’ BIRTH

That night, some shepherds were in the fields near Bethlehem watching their sheep. Suddenly, an angel of God stood before them, and the glory of the Lord was shining around them. The shepherds became very afraid. The angel said to them, “Don’t be afraid. I am telling you some good news that will make all the people very happy. Today your Savior was born in David’s town. He is Christ, the Lord. This is how you will know him. You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a feeding box.”

Then a very large group of angels from heaven joined the first angel. All the angels were praising God, saying: “Give glory to God in heaven, and on earth let there be peace to the people that please God.”

THE SHEPHERDS VISIT JESUS

The angels left the shepherds and went back to heaven. The shepherds said to each other, “We will go to Bethlehem and see this thing the Lord God told us about.”

So the shepherds went quickly and found Mary and Joseph. The baby was lying in the manger (a feeding box). The shepherds saw the baby. Then they told what the angels said about this child. Everyone was surprised when they heard what the shepherds told them. Then the shepherds went back to their sheep praising God and thanking him for everything they had seen and heard.

When the baby was eight days old, he was circumcised, and he was named Jesus.

WISE MEN COME TO JERUSALEM

Jesus was born during the time when Herod was king. After Jesus was born, some wise men from the east came to Jerusalem and asked, “Where is the new baby that is the king of the Jews? We saw the star that shows he was born and we came to worship him.”

King Herod heard about this new king of the Jews. Herod was troubled about this, and all the people in Jerusalem were worried too. Herod called a meeting of all the leading priests and teachers of the law. Herod asked them
where the Christ would be born. They answered, "In the town of Bethlehem of Judea. The prophet Micah wrote about this in the Scriptures."

Herod had a secret meeting with the wise men from the east. Herod learned from the wise men the exact time they first saw the star. Then Herod sent the wise men to Bethlehem. He said to them, "Go and look carefully to find the new baby. When you find him, come tell me. Then I will go worship him too."

**THE WISE MEN VISIT JESUS**

The wise men heard King Herod and then left. They saw the same star they had seen in the east, and they followed it. The star went before them until it stopped above the place where the baby was staying. The wise men were filled with joy.

The wise men came to the house where the baby was, and they saw the baby with his mother Mary. They bowed down and worshipped the baby. Then they opened the gifts they had brought. They gave the baby treasures of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. But God warned the wise men in a dream not to go back to Herod, so they went home to their own country by a different way.

**JESUS' PARENTS TAKE HIM TO EGYPT**

After the wise men left, an angel of the Lord came to Joseph in a dream. The angel said, "Get up! Take the baby and his mother and escape to Egypt. Herod will start looking for the baby. Herod wants to kill him. Stay in Egypt until I tell you it is safe."

So Joseph got up and left for Egypt with the baby and the baby's mother. They left during the night. Joseph and his family stayed in Egypt until after Herod died.

**HEROD KILLS THE BABY BOYS IN BETHLEHEM**

When Herod saw that the wise men had tricked him, he was very, very angry. Herod gave an order to kill all the boys in Bethlehem. Herod ordered his men to kill all the boys that were two years old and younger.

**JOSEPH AND MARY RETURN TO NAZARETH**

After Herod died, an angel of the Lord came to Joseph in a dream. The angel said, "Get up! Take the baby and his mother and go to Israel. The people that were trying to kill the baby are now dead."

So Joseph took the baby and the baby's mother and went back to Nazareth of Galilee. It was there that Jesus grew up.

I. Match words with the appropriate explanations and give Russian equivalents

1) to wrap a) Having a baby in a stage of development before birth
2) to trick b) a country ruled by a king or a queen
3) shepherd c) to cover or roll up a person
4) pregnant d) the home of God and the saints
5) to e) a person who teaches religion worship
6) kingdom f) to inform of possible danger
7) to bow g) to deceive a person
8) prophet h) to bend the head or body forward (as a greeting)
9) heaven i) a person whose job is to look after sheep
10) to warn j) to give great admiration and respect to God, a person

II. TRUE-FALSE

1. Joseph knew in advance that Mary would become pregnant by the power of the Holy Spirit.
2. At one time, Joseph planned to separate from Mary.
3. Jesus, the King, was born in a stable.
4. Joseph was the natural father of Jesus.

III. Multiple choice. Choose the correct answer

1. Joseph and Mary were from the family of ...
   a) David,
   b) Moses,
   c) Elijah.
2. Bethlehem was known as the town of ...
   a) shepherds,
   b) vineyards,
   c) David.
3. When Jesus was eight days old, he was ...
   a) wrapped in cloths,
   b) circumcised,
   c) christened.
4. What name means “God with us”?
a) “Jesus”,
b) “Gabriel”,
c) “Immanuel”.

IV. Questions for your own thought
1. How would you feel if an angel were to appear and give you a message from God?
2. Question for women: How would you feel if an angel told you that you were going to have a child by the Holy Spirit?
3. Question for men: How would you feel if an angel told you that your girlfriend was pregnant by the power of the Holy Spirit?
4. What kind of man was Joseph? Why do you think he became afraid?
5. Why were King Herod and some of the Jews worried about the baby Jesus?
6. What does the name Jesus mean?
7. Why did the wise men bring Jesus gifts? Why do you think they went to Jerusalem first?
8. Why didn’t the wise men worship Mary or Joseph?
9. How do you think Jesus’ parents felt about moving to Egypt? Is being a foreigner an easy life?
10. The wise men were filled with joy. What brings you joy?
11. What have you learned from this text that is especially meaningful to you?

NEW YEAR’S DAY (JANUARY 1)

The beginning of the New Year has been welcomed on different dates throughout history. Ways of celebrating differ as well, according to customs and religions of the world. People in Muslim societies, for example, celebrate the New Year by wearing new clothes. Southeast Asians release birds and turtles to assure themselves good luck in the twelve months ahead. Jewish people consider the day holy, and hold a religious ceremony at a meal with special foods. Hindus of India leave shrines next to their beds, so they can see beautiful objects at the start of the New Year. Japanese prepare rice cakes at a social event the week before the New Year.

Whatever the customs, most of people feel the same sentiment. With a New Year, we can expect a new life. We wish each other good luck and promise ourselves to do better in the following year.

Whatever the resolution, most of them are broken or forgotten by February.
HERE’S WISHING YOU THE BEST OF LUCK
AND PERFECT HEALTH AND CHEER!
GIFTS OF PEACE, AND JOY AND LOVE
AND VERY HAPPY NEW YEAR!

MAY THE PEACE AND HOPE AND GLORY
OF THAT SILENT NEW YEAR NIGHT
FILL YOUR HOME, AND MAY ITS GLADNESS
MAKE YOUR NEW YEAR VERY BRIGHT!

A WISH FOR YOUR NEW YEAR SO HAPPY SENT
THAT IT MAY BE MERRY AND JOYFULLY SPENT!

GLOSSARY

celebrate v. To observe a holiday or the other special day
release v. To free or let go
assure v. To make certain
shrine(s) n. a holy place or object
sentiment n. Feeling

DISCUSSION POINTS:
★ How do Russian people celebrate the beginning of the New Year?
★ Do you promise to better yourselves in the following year? Do you make your resolutions true?

NEW YEAR PARTY

PREPARATORY VOCABULARY:

In spite of… Несмотря на...
a dark horse "темная лошадка"
Don't look the gift horse in the mouth Дареному коню в зубы не смотрят
horse-laugh гогот, громкий смех
to be like a rat in a hole в затруднительном положении
to smell a rat чувствовать опасность
a rat race мышиная возня
dog’s life "собачья жизнь"
a lucky dog
a gay dog
There's life in the old dog
to live like a fighting cock
to be cock-sure
a cock of the walk
to cock one's nose
a bull in a china shop
It doesn't concern me
to take the bull by the horns
to hit the bull’s-eye
a dragon
to put smb's monkey up
monkey-nut
to throw a monkey wrench into smth
a rabbit
to carry the day
rabid
a snake in the grass
to wake snakes
to see snakes
to buy a pig in a poke
Pigs might fly
a wolf in sheep's clothing
to follow like a sheep
to get upper hand
a tiger
tigerish
a tiger’s-eye
to take a cake

CHARACTERS:

COMPÈRE (The Teacher or one or more advanced students)

SANTA CLAUS  MR/MISS COCK  MR/MISS PIG
SNOW-MAIDEN  MR/MISS BULL  MR/MISS SHEEP
MR/MISS HORSE  MR/MISS MONKEY  MR/MISS TIGER
MR/MISS RAT  MR/MISS RABBIT  MR/MISS DRAGON
MR/MISS DOG  MR/MISS SNAKE

(character can be three-headed)
**COMPERE**: Good evening, dear friends, and I hope this evening will be really good for you. Please, take your seats. First of all, I’d like to congratulate you on the birth of the New Year! May the coming year bring you not only new problems, new conflicts, new disappointments, but new joys, new horizons, new ideas, new happiness, new dreams, new meetings! Happy New Year!

Well, today we have an important occasion. Our New Year session is devoted to the election of the symbol for the next year. It’s a great responsibility for us!

There are twelve candidates who are ready to contend for the right of being the main animal the next year. But before I represent each of them, I’d like to introduce to you our competent jury. The judicial power will be vested in the Chief Justice - Santa Claus - who is an old hand in such kind of competitions. And the associate justice - the Snow-Maiden. They are interested in the results of our contest more than anyone is.

**SANTA CLAUS and SNOW-MAIDEN** greet the audience.

**COMPERE**: Well, everybody is ready, and I think it’s high time to start. Meet our participants! *(The participants can be introduced by themselves).*

This is **MR/MISS HORSE**. In spite of the fact that s/he has dark hair, s/he’s not a dark horse. Don’t look **MR/MISS HORSE** in the mouth; you’d better listen to his/her tender horselaugh, and everything will be OK.

This is **MR/MISS RAT**. S/he’s never been like a rat in a hole. S/he always smells a rat. And if s/he is here, it means that our competition is not a rat race.

This is **MR/MISS DOG**. In spite of his/her dog’s life, s/he’s still a gay dog and a lucky dog. S/he’d like to take part in our competition, because there is life in the old dog. And s/he hopes to be a top dog.

This is **MR/MISS COCK**. S/he doesn’t speak Cockney. S/he lives like a fighting cock. S/he’s not cock-sure that s/he’ll win, but even if s/he is a cock of the walk, s/he won’t cock his nose.

This is **MR/MISS BULL**. A bull in a china shop doesn’t concern him/her. **MR/MISS BULL** is ready to take the bull by the horns. And s/he hopes to hit the bull’s-eye.

This is **MR/MISS DRAGON**. Actually s/he’s not a dragon. But please, don’t cause him/her to show his/her dragon’s teeth, it’s dangerous.
This is **MR/MISS MONKEY**. His/her favourite dish is monkey-nut. S/he likes doing monkey business. But don’t put him/her monkey up - s/he may throw a monkey wrench into our competition.

This is **MR/MISS RABBIT**. You don’t say that s/he’s a rabbit, sometimes s/he can be rabid. In case if s/he carries the day and s/he is a symbol for the next year, s/he’ll object to rabbit hunting.

This is **MR/MISS SNAKE**. S/he’s not a snake in the grass and s/he doesn’t want to wake snakes. And s/he advises not to drink too much alcohol at the New Year night so as not to see snakes the next day.

This is **MR/MISS PIG**. S/he likes to go shopping, but dislikes buying a pig in a poke. S/he hopes to win in our competition and to be a symbol. Who knows? Pigs might fly.

This is **MR/MISS SHEEP**. Look at him/her. S/he’s not a wolf in sheep’s clothing. And s/he doesn’t follow somebody’s opinion like a sheep. S/he has his/her own opinion. And to his/her opinion s/he’ll get upper hand in our competition.

This is **MR/MISS TIGER**. S/he can be a tiger, but not tigerish. S/he believes in his/her talisman - a tiger’s eye.

You see that all the participants are in the same boat. And they should count only on themselves and on luck.

1. Well, we are up to the first contest. We begin with the contest, which has been prepared at home. The hometask was to write a New Year poem with the help of the pairs of rhymed verbs. They are:
   - **Come** - become
   - **Eat** - beat
   - **Sing** - ring
   - **Sleep** - keep.

   You could choose any tense and could change the suggested order. I think we’ll follow the turn according to the horoscope. And the symbol of this year will be the first. **MR/MISS Pig**, you are welcome. Our jury has already begun to work. They are keeping a close watch on each candidate. (RAT, BULL, TIGER, RABBIT, DRAGON, SNAKE, HORSE, SHEEP, MONKEY, COCK, DOG).
2. And now for the next contest. Could you divide into two parts - the beautiful and intelligent. It's up to you to decide what group is closer to you. You may join any of them.

(The students divide into two groups of six)

Well this contest is for the beautiful group. Looking at himself into the looking-glass, each participant should say the phase "HOW BEAUTIFUL I AM" for ten times. But you should neither laugh nor smile.

SANTA CLAUS, SNOW-MAIDEN (call three participants who have failed): Thank you for your participation. It was awfully pleasant for us to see your acting. We hope the next time you'll have a chance to become a symbol of the year, but, unfortunately, not now. Please, take your seats in the auditorium. And we continue our competition.

3. This contest is for the intelligent group. You should declaim a little poem:

Why do you cry, Willy?
Why do you cry?
Why, Willy? Why, Willy?
Why, Willy? Why?

But the task is that you'll do it with the different intonations, which I'll suggest you. Please, read the poem:
- Enthusiastically
- As if you were three years old
- As if you had a hot potato in your mouth
- As if you'd caught a cold
- As if you had just run three kilometres
- As if you were a strict teacher.

SANTA CLAUS, SNOW-MAIDEN call three participants who have failed and thank them for their participation.

(There remain six participants).

COMPERE: And now for the next contest. It consists of two parts.

a. First, you should mime following emotions or states:
- As if you were afraid
- As if you were happy
- As if you were worried
- As if you were thirsty
- As if you were puzzled
b. You should greet Santa Claus with the phrase "**GOOD EVENING, SANTA CLAUS!**", but don’t forget that he is a Chief justice, and try to find suitable intonation.

**SANTA CLAUS, SNOW-MAIDEN** call three participants who won't keep on contending and thank them for their participation.

(There remain three participants).

**COMPERE**: The atmosphere is becoming heated. And it's time for the most exciting, because it's the last, contest. It also consists of two parts.

a. All the participants should act simultaneously.
   - Imagine yourselves in the role of grandmothers who see their grandchildren being beaten. Your actions, please!
   - Imagine that you are fans at the stadium at the football match. Now, action!
   - Imagine that you are on the desert island and you see the ship in the distance. Action, please!

b. This part of the contest is pantomimic. I’ll give a proverb to each of you. You should express it in pantomime so everybody would be able to understand its meaning.
   - **Two heads are better than one**.
   - **Better an egg today than a hen yesterday**.
   - **Don't look a gift horse in the mouth**.

(Guessing the meaning of the proverbs, the audience can give Russian equivalents of the proverbs).

**SANTA CLAUS, SNOW-MAIDEN**: We deliberated, and I decided that the friendship has won in our competition, but taking into account the fact that we should choose only one symbol, we came to grips with a serious problem. It was really difficult to keep cool watching the acting of the candidates. But having come back to the beginning, we analysed each contest and we think that **MR/MISS/MR/MR/MISS ...** had an edge on others. She/he takes the cake today and become the symbol of the next year. Thanks for everyone. And our best congratulations to all of you.
**COMPERE:** Now we could do with a cup of hot tea and a piece of the festive cake. Sit down at the table!

**COMPERE:** Now, I think it’s high time for the most pleasant moment of our party - getting the presents. But it’s not very easy to get them. You should deserve your present. For that you can perform anything. You can sing, dance, declaim poems, mime and so on. I see that the sack of Santa Claus is full of presents. Santa Claus, who will deserve his present the first?

**COMPERE:** Now I suggest that you act a NEW YEAR FAIRY TALE. I have got a scenario, but I have no actors. Could you help me? You should only take a sheet of paper with the name of the role and then listen to me very attentively and act in the way I’ll read. But be careful! Every time, when the CURTAIN closes, everybody should clear out the stage.

**ROLES (to be handed out)**

**MALE:**
- King
- Prince
- Scary Robber
- Big Old Tree
- White Horse
- Curtain
- 3 Young Wild Boars

**FEMALE:**
- Queen
- Princess
- Moon
- Sun
- Window
- 3 Snow-Flakes

Once upon a time there lived the KING with his QUEEN and heir daughter - the BEAUTIFUL PRINCESS. They loved each other very much and never quarrelled.

**ACT ONE.** CURTAIN opens. It happened on the New Year Eve. Night. The MOON has risen. Near the big open WINDOW the beautiful PRINCESS is sitting, smiling and dreaming about a handsome PRINCE. All of a sudden the SCARY ROBBER has appeared. He has whistled and the beautiful PRINCESS fainted with fear. The SCARY ROBBER has seized the beautiful PRINCESS and gone with the wind. CURTAIN closes.

**ACT TWO.** CURTAIN opens. It’s a big white meadow in the wood. The SUN is shining brightly. In the middle of the meadow there is a BIG OLD TREE. The SNOWFLAKES are flying joyfully. The YOUNG WILD BOARS are running across the white meadow cheerfully grunting. All of a sudden the SCARY ROBBER with the beautiful PRINCESS has appeared. He ties the PRINCESS to
the TREE and goes away. She is crying bitterly. And the SUN keeps shining. The SNOWFLAKES keep flying. The YOUNG WILD BOARS keep running across the meadow cheerfully grunting. CURTAIN closes.

**ACT THREE.** CURTAIN opens. The King's Palace is in uproar. The KING is sobbing. The QUEEN is sobbing. At this time the handsome PRINCE is passing by the King's Palace on his WHITE HORSE. He hears someone crying. He gets off his WHITE HORSE and goes to the palace to find out what has happened there. The KING is sobbing. The QUEEN is sobbing. They are telling the PRINCE that their daughter - the beautiful PRINCESS - the night before was sitting near the big open window dreaming and smiling, and suddenly the Scary Robber ran over and kidnapped her. The PRINCE is trying to calm them and he promises them to find their daughter. He gets on his WHITE HORSE and goes away. CURTAIN closes.

**ACT FOUR.** CURTAIN opens. It's a big snow meadow in the wood. The SUN is shining brightly. The SNOWFLAKES are flying joyfully. The YOUNG WILD BOARS are running cross the meadow cheerfully grunting. In the middle of the meadow there is the BIG OLD TREE. The beautiful PRINCESS is tied to the TREE. She is shivering because of the cold. She is crying bitterly and loudly. And the SUN keeps shining. The SNOWFLAKES keep flying. The YOUNG WILD BOARS keep running across the meadow cheerfully grunting. The PRINCE on his WHITE HORSE is approaching to the BIG TREE. He has found the beautiful PRINCESS! But suddenly the SCARY ROBBER appears. The PRINCE gets off his WHITE HORSE and begins to fight with the SCARY ROBBER. The battle is long and hard. Sometimes the PRINCE is winning, sometimes the SCARY ROBBER. But at least the PRINCE is victorious. The SCARY ROBBER is motionless. The PRINCE is running to the BIG TREE. He is untying the beautiful PRINCESS. They are hugging each other, looking into each other eyes and falling in love with each other. The PRINCE brings to the PRINCESS his WHITE HORSE, puts her on the HORSE and they go to the King's Palace. CURTAIN closes.

**ACT FIVE.** CURTAIN opens. The KING is sobbing. The QUEEN is sobbing. They have lost any hope to see their daughter - the beautiful PRINCESS. The KING is tearing his last hair... And suddenly the PRINCE and the PRINCESS appear! The PRINCE is leading his WHITE HORSE. The PRINCESS - safe and sound - is sitting on the HORSE. The PRINCE helps her to get off the HORSE, and they are running to meet the KING and the QUEEN. Everybody is happy! The QUEEN is kissing the PRINCESS. The KING is kissing the PRINCE. The PRINCE is kissing his WHITE HORSE. The PRINCESS is kissing the PRINCE. The KING is kissing the HORSE. The QUEEN is kissing the PRINCESS. The
PRINCE is kissing the PRINCESS. The KING is kissing the QUEEN. Everybody is hugging and kissing each other! Everybody is happy! It is striking twelve. Everybody sits at the table. The KING opens a bottle of Champagne. Everybody drinks, congratulates to each other. CURTAIN... doesn’t close.

**COMPÈRE:** Dear friends! Unfortunately, happiness is not for ever. Our party is over. Thank you for coming and participating.

Happy New Year!

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**ST. VALENTINE'S DAY (FEBRUARY 14)**

St. Valentine’s Day has roots in several *legends* that have found their way to us through the ages. One of the earliest popular symbols of the day is Cupid, the Roman god of Love, who is represented by the image of a young boy with bow and arrow.

Three hundred years ago after the death of Jesus Christ, the Roman emperors still demanded that everyone believed in the Roman gods. Valentine, a Christian priest, had been thrown in prison for his teaching. On February 14, Valentine was beheaded, not only because he was a Christian, but also because he had performed a miracle. He supposedly cured the jailer’s daughter of her blindness. The night before he was executed, he wrote the jailer’s daughter a farewell letter, signing it, "From Your Valentine". Another legend tells us that the same Valentine, well-loved by all, wrote notes from his jail cell to children and friends who missed him.

Another Valentine was an Italian bishop who lived at about the same time. He was imprisoned because he secretly married a couple, contrary to the laws of the Roman emperor. Some legends say he was burned at the stake.

February 14 was also a Roman holiday, held in honour of a goddess. Young men randomly chose the name of a young girl to escort to the festivities. The custom of choosing a sweetheart on this date spread through Europe in the Middle Ages and then to the early American colonies. Through the ages, people also believed that birds picked their mates on February 14.

Whatever the odd mixture of *origins*, St. Valentine’s Day is now a day for sweethearts. It is the day that you show your friend or loved one that you care. You can send candy to someone you think is special. Or you can send roses, the flower of love. Most people send "valentines", a greeting card named after the notes that St. Valentine wrote from jail. Valentines can be *sentimental*, romantic
and heartfelt. They can be funny and friendly. If the sender is shy, valentines can be anonymous.

For teenagers and adults, major newspapers have a Valentine's Day offer. Anyone can send in a message, for a small fee of course, destined for a would-be sweetheart, a good friend, an acquaintance or even a spouse of fifty years. For a small fee, the message is printed in a special section of the newspaper on February 14.

TRADITIONS AND CUSTOMS

Many old-fashioned Valentine's Day customs involved ways single people could learn who their future spouse might be.

One of the customs the young people liked was name drawing. The names of the Roman girls were written on slips of paper and put into a jar. Each young man drew a slip. The girl whose name he drew was to be his sweetheart for a year.

Young people hoped to find their own mates on Valentine's Day. They chanted magic charms and spells, trying to make their wishes come true. The British had added this pagan magic to the holiday.

Other kinds of magic were tried on Valentine's Eve. One young lady pinned four bay leaves to the corners of her pillow, and one in the middle. Then she dreamed of her sweetheart. She thought that meant she would be married to him soon. She also tried something else.

Saint Valentine's Day came to be celebrated in most of the countries of Europe. Sicily is an island south of Italy. There a young girl would stand at her window for half an hour before sunrise. If no one went by, she believed she would not be married that year. If she saw a man pass, she thought she would marry him or someone who looked like him.

In Germany the girls tried another way of learning whom they would marry. They planted onions on St. Valentine's Day. Each girl tagged several day onions with the names of young men. She put the onion in a corner near the fireplace. She thought she would marry the man whose onion sprouted first.

A French princess, Madam Royale, named her place "the Valentine". She had grand valentine parties in the early 1600's. There was dancing and namedrawing. The princess did not draw a name. She chose her own partner, but she made her guests draw names. Each knight gave flowers to the lady whose name he drew. He gave her flowers at each dance they attended that year.

Valentine parties became popular in many wealthy French homes. The young ladies and gentlemen put verses into a valentine box. They put their names into a box, too, on different slips. Then each person drew a name and a verse. The gentleman read his verse to the lady. She read her to him. Often the verse did not match the person and everyone laughed.
People of all ages love to send and to receive valentines. Handmade valentines, created by cutting hearts out of coloured paper, show that a lot of thought was put into making them personal. Valentines can be heart-shaped, or have hearts, the symbol of love, on them. You can write a short rhyme inside the heart:

ROSES ARE RED,
VIOLETS ARE BLUE,
SUGAR IS SWEET,
AND SO ARE YOU!

Or you can buy valentines with messages in them. If you are shy, you can sign it, "Your Secret Admirer".

Now, make a valentine by yourself. Choose one or more rhymes or messages:

Here’s a special valentine
With lots of love for you,
And since you’re very special
Here are hugs and kisses, too!

I hope that Valentine’s Day
Will bring you lots of fun!
He thinks you’re specially nice
And so does everyone!

Not only when it’s Valentine’s Day
But always all year through,
You’re thought about with words of love
And wished much gladness, too!

Happiness is never
Far behind
When thoughts of you
Come into mind!

Sending a wish with lots of heart
For a day that’s happy from the start!

A friend like you…
Is a dream come true!

Sending a basket of Valentine wishes
Filled with lots of love and kisses!

Just wanted to say…
Have a bright, delightful Valentine’s Day!

Just a little note to say,
"Have a happy, happy Valentine’s Day!"

I never want to lose you as a friend…
…You know too much!
IT'S HIGH TIME WE WERE VALENTINES!

GLOSSARY:

legend(s) n. a popular story, perhaps untrue, that is passed down through history
behead(ed) v. to execute by having one's head cut off
supposedly adv. according to some people
execute(d) v. to put to death by an official order
burn(ed) at the stake phrase, to kill a person by setting fire to the long piece of wood to which the person is tied
randomly adv. by chance; not in any order
mate(s) n. male or female member of a pair; a friend
origin(s) n. beginning; source
sentimental adj. Emotional; full of feeling
heartfelt adj. Sincere
anonymous adj. Without the sender's name
acquaintanc e n. a friend, but not a close friend
spouse n. husband or wife

DISCUSSION POINTS:

♥ In what way can Valentine's Day make someone either happy or sad?
♥ «A friend in need is a friend indeed". What do you think this means? Give some examples.
♥ Why is the heart an appropriate symbol for Valentine's Day?
♥ What are some of the most popular gifts given to loved ones and friends on Valentine's Day? What feelings do these gifts usually express?
♥ What is meant by the term "heartbreaker"?

FESTIVAL OF ROMANCE and AFFECTION

Valentine's Day is celebrated on February 14th as a festival of romance and affection. People send greeting cards called "valentines" to their sweethearts, friends, and members of their families. Many valentines have romantic poems; others are humorous. But almost all valentines ask, "Be My Valentine".
This may mean be my friend or be my love or be my companion. Valentines often show a cupid with an arrow. Cupid, also called Eros, was the ancient Roman god of love. Valentine’s Day is not a legal holiday; schools and banks are open as usual. Merchants sell valentines and decorations for Valentine’s Day parties and dances. All the decorations are bright red, and the most popular ones are heart shaped.

School children decorate their classrooms with bright red paper hearts and celebrate the day in their classroom. They also make valentine cards for their friends and parents. Red is the colour most often used in valentines because it is a symbol of warmth and feelings. This is the reason that red roses have long been a symbol of love. Pink is a mixture of red and white and is quite commonly used also. White is a symbol of purity and is a colour often used in valentines. It’s believed that the bridal veil may have inspired the use of lace on valentines. Stores advertise heavily for this holiday since it is traditional for sweethearts, spouses, and members of the family to exchange gifts on Valentine’s Day. Heart shaped boxes of candy, jewellery and flowers are some of the popular gifts given on this day. Many newspapers carry advertisements or messages placed by people in love. Both men and women want to let their sweethearts know how much they love them. On Valentine’s Day, many radio stations play romantic music all day long. One very famous song is called "My Funny Valentine".

Valentine’s Day is a day to share loving feelings with friends and family. It has become traditional for many couples to become engaged on this day. Also, famous couples are remembered. Some of them are Romeo and Juliet, Caesar and Cleopatra, among others. This is a happy day because it is specially dedicated to celebrate love, affection and friendship.

I. MATCH WORDS WITH SIMILAR MEANINGS.
1. romance  a. boyfriend, girlfriend
2. affection  b. love
3. humorous  c. tenderness, warm feelings
4. decorate  d. make attractive
5. merchant  e. wife or husband
6. spouse  f. emotions
7. feelings  g. funny
8. companion  h. celebration
9. festival  i. storekeeper
10. sweetheart  j. friend
II. CROSS OUT THE PHRASES OR WORDS THAT DON'T BELONG.

1. humorous  |  serious  | funny  | Light-hearted  | comic
2. affection  | hug  | kiss  | holding hands  | anger
3. merchant  | customer  | salesperson  | seller  | florist
4. feelings  | love  | anger  | homework  | happiness
5. companion  | person  | friend  | car  | roommate
6. festival  | party  | celebration  | funeral  | parade
7. sweetheart  | boyfriend  | enemy  | wife  | husband
8. spouse  | husband  | mate  | parent  | wife
9. decoration  | paper hearts  | flowers  | pictures  | dresses
10. romance  | relationship  | affair  | love  | fight

III. SELECT THE WORD THAT BEST COMPLETES THE SENTENCE.
1. On the classroom walls there are ...
   a) celebrations,
   b) decorations,
   c) festivals.
2. Valentine's Day is a celebration of love and ...
   a) romance,
   b) decorations,
   c) parents.
3. Valentine's cards have messages of ...
   a) affection,
   b) humorous,
   c) share.
4. It is traditional to send flowers to ... on Valentine's Day.
   a) celebrate,
   b) spouses,
   c) dedicate.
5. On this day people share feelings of affection with friends, family and ...
   a) flowers,
   b) affection,
   c) companions.
6. ... decorate their stores with red hearts and cupids on Valentine's Day.
   a) Sweethearts,
   b) Spouses,
   c) Merchants.
7. This is a day to celebrate ... of friendship and love.
   a) feelings,
b) humorous,
c) decorations.
8. Some Valentine cards are funny; they have ... messages.
a) loving,
b) humorous,
c) romance.
9. Many people call people their love ... 
a) sweetheart,
b) romance,
c) spouse.

IV. FILL IN THE BLANKS WITH APPROPRIATE WORDS (CHANGE INTO THE PAST TENSE AS NEEDED).
1. Romeo and Juliet loved each other very much; but their parents didn’t know it. They had a secret.....
2. The young man got married. Now he was a ..... 
3. Mary likes John very much. She has good ..... toward him.
4. The grandmother asked her grandchild to go with her on the trip to Washington. She asked her to be her travelling ..... 
5. The high-school students decided to have a large party to celebrate the Spring. It was a beautiful ..... 
6. Martin told Helene: "I have warm feelings for you". He feels ... for her.
7. Everybody laughed when they heard the story. It was very ....
8. The couple were very much in love. They called each other ..... 
9. The owners of the stores formed a group association. It’s a group of ..... 

V. SELECT THE CORRECT WORD FORM TO COMPLETE EACH SENTENCE.

NOUN - ROMANCE, FESTIVAL, HUMOR, DECORATION, AFFECTION
ADJECTIVE - ROMANTIC, FESTIVE, HUMOROUS, DECORATED, AFFECTIONATE

1. It’s a (romance, romantic) poem.
2. The Spring party was a (festival, festive) occasion.
3. The TV comedy was full of (humor, humorous).
4. The Christmas tree was (decorated, decoration) with colored lights.
5. He wrote a message of (affection, affectionate).
VI. MATCH THE FAMOUS COUPLES


VII. SET THE MIXED LINES OF THE POEM IN ORDER.

It's pink and white
   There's a heart,
      Forget-me-nots
         And on it's written
The very palest blue
   And red and blue,
      All in gold, "To You,..."
         I have a little valentine
And pretty as can be.
   That someone sent to me.
      Are round the edge,
         As red as red can be!
"...With Love from Me!"
   Such a lovely piece of lace,
      And tiny roses, too; and
         And in the centre

APRIL FOOL'S DAY (APRIL, 1)

In sixteenth century France, the start of the new year was observed on April first. It was celebrated in much the same way as it is today with parties and dancings into the late hours of the night.

Then in 1562, Pope Gregory introduced a new calendar for the Christian world, and the new year fell on January first. There were some people, however, who hadn't heard or didn't believe the change in the date, so they continued to celebrate New Year's Day on April first. Others played tricks on them and called them "April fools". They sent them on a "fool's errand" or tried to make...
them believe that something false was true. In France today, April first is called "Poisson d'Avril". French children fool their friends by taping a paper fish to their friends' backs. When the "young fool" discovers this trick, the prankster yells "Poisson d'Avril!" (April Fish!)

One common trick on April Fool's Day, or All Fool's Day, is pointing down to a friend's shoe and saying, "Your shoelace is untied". Teachers in the nineteenth century used to say to pupils, "Look! A flock of geese!" and point up. School children might tell a classmate that school has been cancelled. Whatever the trick, if the innocent victim falls for the joke the prankster yells, "April Fool!"

The "fool's errand" we play on people are practical jokes. Putting salt in the sugar bowl for the next person is not a nice trick to play on a stranger. College students set their clocks an hour behind, so their roommates show up to the wrong class - or not at all. Some practical jokes are kept up the whole day before the victim realizes what day it is. Most April Fool jokes are in good fun and not meant to harm anyone. The cleverest April Fool joke is the one where everyone laughs, especially the person upon whom the joke is played.

"THE FIRST OF APRIL IS THE DAY WE REMEMBER WHAT WE ARE THE OTHER 364 DAYS OF THE YEAR".
- American humorist Mark Twain

GLOSSARY

fool's errand n. phrase, a pointless or silly job or assignment
prankster n. a person who is playing a trick
cancel(led) v. to call off; to stop
victim n. a person who is being fooled or tricked
practical joke(s) n. phrase, funny trick or joke to make someone feel foolish
ALL FOOL'S DAY ACTIVITIES FOR STUDENTS

I. FIND OUT HIDDEN COLOURS.

1) Some parts of the face are the eyes, eye, brow, nose and mouth.
2) I’m not really dumb; lack of sleep made me forget the answers.
3) If I tell you what she said, will you agree never to tell anyone?
4) In the box we found a pencil, a pin, keys and a few coins.
5) Are three zeroes enough to write the number one thousand?
6) The wheelbarrow hit eleven rocks as it rolled down the hill.
7) When the nurse gives you the injection, just yell "Ow!" if it hurts.
8) Elsa and Otto ran gently down the path to the river.
9) Before arriving at Kuala Lumpur, please fill out these forms.
10)I play nearly all the stringed instruments: violin, cello, bass viol, etc.
11) When I opened the window, shining rays of sunlight flooded the room.
12)We’ll go in Jim’s car. Let’s leave at six o’clock.

II. FIND OUT HIDDEN NUMBERS.

1) If I've said something to hurt you, I’m sorry.
2) Listen carefully to the dialogue on the tape-recording.
3) It would be better to learn the language thoroughly.
4) When the plane took off, I very much wanted to cry.
5) We thought that was the best year of our lives.
6) Now their team is even with ours.
7) "Honesty is the best policy" is a well-known maximum.
8) The papers I xeroxed didn’t turn out very well.
9) The words were spoken in each of the language native to those present.
10)Paul is going to leave today, Robert went yesterday.
11) I hope that our efforts to rectify the error will comfort you a little.
12)I wish I could have been present at this event you are telling about.

III. MATCH EACH WORD OR PHRASE IN THE FIRST COLUMN WITH THE WORD OR PHRASE IN THE SECOND COLUMN: THAT PRODUCES A PROVERB OR IDIOM.

1. A barking dog a. the dogs
2. Never look a gift horse b. out of the bag
3. Curiosity killed c. but you can’t make him drink
4. Dog eat
5. You can’t teach an old dog
6. Let sleeping dog
7. When the cat’s away
8. Let the cat
9. There’s more than one way
10. It’s raining
11. You may lead a horse to water
12. Go to
13. Go whole
14. Hold your
15. That’s a horse
d. lie
e. never bites
f. new tricks
g. of a different colour
h. horses
i. hog
j. dog
k. to skin a cat
l. in the mouth
m. the mice will play
n. cats and dogs
o. the cat

IV. STRIP STORIES. PUT THE MIXED STRIPS IN ORDER TO MAKE A STORY. (WORK IN GROUPS).

THE POKER GAME (STRIPS FOR 9 STUDENTS)

One of the players was a dog.

A man went away for the weekend.

"What a wonderfully intelligent dog to be able to play poker!"

At one end of the room a game of poker was in progress.

"Whenever he gets a good hand, he wags his tail".

He arrived rather late, after dinner.

"Well, he’s not a very good player, really," replied the host.

After he had been introduced all around, the man said to his host:

The other members of the house party were all sitting around in the living room.
**THE DONKEY (STRIPS FOR 6 STUDENTS)**

The donkey dropped dead of starvation.

A professor tried to train his donkey to get along without eating.

"Just when he had learned not to eat, he died".

Each day he reduced the amount of hay he gave the animal.

"What an irreplaceable loss!" the professor lamented.

From one bale of hay a day, he reduced the donkey’s intake to nothing.

**THE LATE FRIEND (STRIPS FOR 6 STUDENTS)**

"I heard you had died," he exclaimed.

"That's impossible," decided the professor.

A professor met his friend on the street one day.

"The man who told me is much more reliable than you are".

"But you see I am alive," he said.

The friend smiled at these words.

**V. INVENT THE ENDS OF THESE FUNNY STORIES  (WORK IN GROUPS OF THREE OR FOUR).**

a) A doctor had an urgent call.
- Can you come immediately, doctor? My little son has just swallowed a fountain pen.
- I’ll be there right away. What are you doing in the meantime?
- .....
b) A man bought a parrot that could speak five languages. He paid $1,000 for it. The pet-shop owner said that would deliver the bird that afternoon. When the proud owner got home, he asked his wife if the parrot had been delivered. She answered,
- Yes, it has.
- Where is it?
- It's in the oven.
- In the oven?! But he could speak five languages!!
- ....

c) The teacher is asking a geography question:
- Mary, where is the English Channel?
- ....

d) The psychiatrist was asking questions to test his patient.
- Do you ever hear voices without knowing who is speaking or where the voices are coming from?
- Yes, sir, I do.
- And when does it happen?
- ....

e) The little boy has just started school. When he returned home the first day, his mother asked,
- Billy, what did you learn today?
- I learned to write.
- Oh, what did you write?
- ....

f) A man in a restaurant said to a stranger sitting at the next table,
- Do you realise that you are reading your newspaper upside down?
- Of course I realise it. ....

VI. 1.Read the complete poem.
   2.Read the poem. Do not pronounce "CAP", but do the motion.
   3.Read the poem. Do not pronounce "MY, CAP", but do the motions.
   4.Read the poem. Do not pronounce "MY, CAP, THREE", but do the motions.
   5.Read the poem. Do not pronounce "MY, CAP, THREE, CORNERED", but do the motions.

   My cap, it is three-cornered.
   Oh, my three-cornered cap.
But if it isn't three-cornered
It isn't my cap.

VII. SING THIS SONG (TUNE "Бабушка рядышком с дедушкой"). CHANGE THE NAME OF THE TOY EACH TIME.

My mother has bought me a toy bear.
Pity, but it lacked an eye!
Just so neat, but defective toy,
A-ya-ya-yai ya-ya-yai!

* A toy fox/ dog/ bird/ pig/ wolf/ boy/ girl/ mouse/ horse/ frog/ hare etc.

APPENDIX
SONGS for THE HALLOWEEN PARTY

COCKLES AND MUSSELS
In Dublin's fair city
Where the girls are so pretty
I first set my eyes on sweet Molly Malone.
As she wheeled her wheelbarrow
Through streets broad and narrow
Crying, "Cockles and mussels alive, alive-o!"

Crying, "Cockles and mussels
Alive, alive-o!"

She was a fishmonger
But sure 'twas no wonder
For so were her father
And mother before.
And they each wheeled the barrow
Through streets broad and narrow
Crying, "Cockles and mussels
Alive, alive-o!"
CHORUS:
She died of a fever
And no one could save her
And that was the end
Of sweet Molly Malone.
But her ghost wheels her barrow
Through streets broad and narrow
Crying, "Cockles and mussels
Alive, alive-o!"

CHORUS:

CLEMENTINE

1. In a cavern, in a canyon
Excavating for a mine
Live a miner, forty-niner
And his daughter, Clementine.

CHORUS: Oh, my darling! Oh, my darling!
Oh, my darling Clementine!
You are lost and gone for ever!
Dreadful sorry, Clementine!

2. Light she was and like a fairy
And her shoes were number nine.
Herring boxes without topses
Sandals were for Clementine.

3. Drove she ducklings to the water
Every morning just at nine
Stubbed her toe against a splinter
Fell into the foaming brine.

4. Ruby lips above the water
Blowing bubbles soft and fine.
But, alas, I was no swimmer,
So I lost my Clementine.

5. How I missed her! How I missed her
How I missed my Clementine!
Until I kissed her... little sister
And forgot my Clementine.

SONGS for THE NEW YEAR PARTY

OH, THE FROST, THE FROST...(tune: Ой, мороз, мороз...)

Oh, the frost, the frost, Please, don’t freeze me, Me and my nice horse.
When I come back home, It’ll be sunset, Oh, the frost, the frost,
Please, don’t freeze me, I shall hug my wife, Please, don’t freeze me,
frost. Then I go to bed. frost.
Me and my nice horse. Oh, the frost, the frost,

Me and my nice horse, Please, don’t freeze me,
frost. 
It’s too marvelous.
I have got a wife,
She’s too jealous.
Me and my nice horse.

THE NEW YEAR TREE (tune: "В лесу родилась елочка")

Deep in the wood a yule was born At dawn a pony pulls a sleigh.
And in the wood grew tall, White snow lies all around.
In summer, winter and the fall And jingling bells ring out so gay.
The greenest tree of all. Oh, what a merry sound!

The snowstorm whispered lullabies An old man looks for tree to chop
And wrapped up all the trees. And puts it on his sleigh.
She sang: "Now close your lovely eyes The pony gallops clip, clop, clop,
And make sure, you won’t freeze". And takes our yule away.

An angry wolf with white fangs bared The yule tree to our party’s come,
Beside the yule-tree stops. And on the winter night
The little hare is very scared It brings much joy to everyone.
And round the yule-tree hops. Oh, what a lovely sight!
HAPPY NEW YEAR

1. No more champagne and the fireworks are through.
   Here we are - me and you - feeling lost and feeling blue.
   It's the end of the party, and the morning seems so grey
   So unlike yesterday. Now it's time for us to say:

   CHORUS:       Happy New Year! Happy New Year!
       May we all have a vision now and then
       Of a world where every neighbour is a friend.
       Happy New Year! Happy New Year!
       May we all have our hopes, our will to try
       If we don't, we might as well lie down and die,
       You and I.

2. Sometimes I see how the brave new world arrives,
   And I see how it thrives in the ashes of our lives.
   Oh, yes, man is a fool, and he thinks he'll be OK
   Dragging on feet of clay, never knowing his astray,
   Keeps on going anyway.

3. Seems to me now that the dreams we had before
   Are all dead - nothing more, than confetti on the floor.
   It's the end of a decade in another ten years' time.
   Who can say what we'll find? What lies waiting down the line
   In the end of eighty-nine?

JINGLE, BELLS!

Dashing through the snow  A day or two ago
In a one-horse open sleigh  I thought I'd take a
Down the hill we go  ride
Laughing all the way.  And soon Miss Fannie
Bells on bobtail ring  Bright
Making spirits bright  Was seated by my side.
What fun it is to ride and sing  The horse was lean and lank
A sleighing song tonight.  Misfortune seemed his lot.
He got into a drifted bank
And we, we got upset.

**CHORUS:** Jingle, bells! Jingle, bells!
Jingle all the way!
Oh, what fun it is to ride
In a one-horse open sleigh!

Now the ground is white
Go it while you are young
Take the girls tonight
And sing this sleighing song.
Just got a bobtail bay
Two forty for his speed
Then hitch him to an open sleigh
And crack! You'll take the lead.

**CHORUS:**

**SONGS for ST. VALENTINE'S DAY**

**YOU ARE MY SUNSHINE**
You are my sunshine, my only sunshine;
You make me happy when skies are grey,
You'll never know, dear, how much I love you;
Please don't take my sunshine away.
   The other night, dear, as I lay sleeping,
   I dreamt I held you in my arms.
   When I awoke, dear, I was mistaken,
   So I hung my head and I cried

**THE SONG for ALL FOOL'S DAY**

**OH! SUSANNA!**

1. Oh, I come from Alabama
   With my banjo on my knee.
2. It rained all night the day I left;
   The weather was so dry.
I'm going from Louisiana
Susanna for to see.
The sun so hot I froze to death.
Susanna, don't you cry.

CHORUS: Oh, Susanna!
Don't you cry for me!
For I come from Alabama
With my banjo on my knee.

3. I had a dream the other night
   When everything was still;
   I thought I saw Susanna
   A-coming down the hill.

4. A buckwheat cake was in her mouth;
   A tear was in her eye.
   I said, "I come from Dixie Land;
   Susanna, don't you cry!"

---

ANSWER KEY

THE KING IS BORN

I.  1c 2g 3i 4a 5j 6b 7h 8e 9d 10f

II. 1 - false
    2 - true
    3 - true
    4 - false

III. 1a 2c 3b 4c

ST. VALENTINE'S DAY

I.  1b 2c 3g 4d 5i 6e 7f 8j 9h 10a

II. 1a 2d 3a 4c 5c 6c 7b 8c 9d 10c


V. 1. romantic 2. festive 3. humour 4. decorated 5. affection

VI. 1d 2c 3a 4e 5f 6b 7h 8i 9j 10g

VII
I have a little valentine
That someone sent to me.
It's pink and white
And red and blue,
And pretty as can be.
Forget-me-nots
Are round the edge,
And tiny roses too; and
Such a lovely piece of lace,
The very palest blue.
And in the centre
There's a heart.
As red as red can be!
And on it's written
All in gold, "To You,
With Love from Me".

APRIL FOOL'S DAY


IV. THE POKER GAME

A man went away for the weekend.
He arrived rather late, after dinner.
The other members of the house party were all sitting around in the living room.
At one end of the room a game of poker was in progress.
One of the players was a dog.
After he had been introduced all around, the man said to his host:
"What a wonderfully intelligent dog to be able to play poker".
"Well, he's not a very good player, really," replied the host.
"Whenever he gets a good hand, he wags his tail".
THE DONKEY

A professor tried to train his donkey to get along without eating. Each day he reduced the amount of hay he gave the animal. From one bale of hay a day, he reduced the donkey's intake to nothing. The donkey dropped dead of starvation. "What an irreplaceable loss!" the professor lamented. "Just when he had learned not to eat, he died".

THE LATE FRIEND

A professor met his friend on the street one day. "I heard you had died," he exclaimed. The friend smiled at these words. "But you see I am alive," he said. "That's impossible," decided the professor. "The man who told me is much more reliable than you are".

V. a) - Oh, I'm using a pencil.
   b) - Well, then, why didn't he speak up?
   c) - I don't know. We can't get it on our TV.
   d) - When I answer the telephone.
   e) - I don't know. I haven't learned to read yet.
   f) - ...Do you think it's easy?