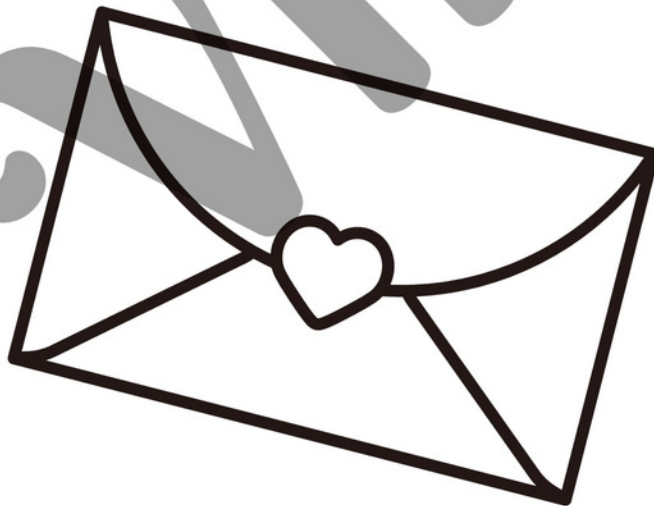


Reader's
Theater:

The Secret Valentine Scavenger Hunt



Characters:

- Narrator
- Jamie (a curious and adventurous student)
- Maya (Jamie's best friend, loves solving puzzles)
- Mr. Carter (a supportive and fun teacher)
- Principal Hayes (a kind but serious principal)
- Ollie (a new student, shy but creative)
- Janitor Lou (a friendly janitor with a love for riddles)
- Librarian Ms. Reed (helpful and wise)

Optional Props:

- A heart-shaped card with a clue
- A magnifying glass for Maya
- Small paper clues for the scavenger hunt
- Valentine decorations
- Desks or tables for a classroom setting
- bookshelf for the "library"

Narrator:

It was Valentine's Day at Meadowbrook Elementary, and the classroom was filled with excitement. Red and pink hearts decorated the walls, paper chains hung from the ceiling, and the air smelled like cupcakes and candy hearts.

Mr. Carter, their teacher, clapped his hands for attention.

Mr. Carter:

Alright, class! It's time for the best part of the day—our Valentine's Day party! Everyone grab your Valentines and start passing them out!

Narrator:

The students eagerly exchanged cards, slipping notes into each other's decorated Valentine boxes. Some had glitter, some had silly jokes, and others had handwritten messages.

Jamie and Maya sat at their desks, happily sorting through their pile of cards.

Maya:

(Laughing) Look at this one, Jamie! It says, "You're as cool as a polar bear wearing sunglasses."

Jamie:

Nice! (Holds up another) This one says, "You make school sweet!"

Narrator:

Just then, Jamie noticed something unusual. Inside their Valentine box, hidden beneath the other cards, was a plain red envelope with no name on it.

Jamie:

(Picking up the envelope) Weird... everyone signed their names, but this one doesn't say who it's from.

Maya:

(A dramatic gasp) A mystery Valentine? This is officially the best Valentine's Day ever.

Narrator:

Jamie opened the envelope and pulled out a handwritten note. Instead of a name, it had a riddle.

Jamie:

(Reading aloud)
"To find out who, follow this clue!
Check the place where books tell tales true."

Maya:

(Pulls out her magnifying glass.) A scavenger hunt! This is no ordinary Valentine—this is a mission!

Mr. Carter:

(Leaning in with interest.) A mystery, you say? Well, detectives, I hope you're up for the challenge! But no running in the halls—mysteries must be solved with style.

Narrator:

Jamie and Maya exchanged excited looks and jumped into action. Their first stop? The library.

Narrator:

Jamie and Maya hurried to the library, their hearts pounding with excitement. Ms. Reed, the school librarian, was stacking books when she noticed them whispering and searching the shelves.

Ms. Reed:

(Amused.) Looks like someone's on a mission. Can I help?

Jamie:

Yes! We're following a clue that led us here—did anyone leave a note?

Ms. Reed:

(Smiling) I did find something near the adventure books earlier. (Hands them a small pink note.) Looks like your mystery isn't over yet.

Maya:

(Reading the note)

"You're getting warmer, but don't delay."

Find the place where we go to play."

Jamie:

The playground! Let's go!

Narrator:

The best friends ran outside, scanning the playground.

Kids were playing tag and swinging, but Jamie and Maya had only one mission: finding the next clue.

Suddenly, Janitor Lou, who was sweeping near the slide, called out.

Janitor Lou:

(Smiling) Looking for something detectives?

Maya:

Yes! A clue—have you seen anything unusual?

Janitor Lou:

(Scratching his chin) Well... I did find a red note stuck in the basketball hoop this morning. (Hands them the note.)

Jamie:

(Reading)

"Almost there! Just one more test,
Find the place where friends should test."

Maya:

That's gotta be the buddy bench!

Narrator:

They rushed to the buddy bench and found another heart-shaped note. But this time, it had a small gift attached—a handmade friendship bracelet.

Jamie:

(Reading)

"One final step... don't make a peep,
Look where we store things when it's time to sleep."

Maya:

(Pauses) Wait... does that mean the cubby area in the classroom?

Jamie:

Only one way to find out!

Narrator:

Back in the classroom, they searched Jamie's cubby. Tucked inside was the first note along with a small, handmade Valentine.

Jamie:

(Reading the note aloud)

"I just moved here and didn't know how to say, I'd love to be friends in a fun kind of way. If you'd like that too, come say hi. Hope this made you smile—bye!"

Maya:

(Smiling) This is the sweetest thing ever. But who's behind it?

Narrator:

Just then, they heard a quiet voice behind them.

Ollie:

(Shyly) Um... hi. It was nice to just... I didn't know how to say it, so I made a guess instead.

Jamie:

(A big grin) Ollie, this was amazing. You could've just asked, but I think this was way cooler.

Maya:

Yeah! You should totally help us solve mysteries from now on.

Ollie:

(Smiling) Really? You mean... we can be friends?

Jamie:

Of course! But next time, you have to solve our mystery.

Narrator:

With that, the three new friends sat together, excited to celebrate Valentine's Day with laughter, kindness, and plenty of candy.

Name: _____

Date: _____

Why did Ollie decide to make a scavenger hunt instead of just giving Jamie a Valentine?

How do you think Ollie felt at the end of the story?

What would you do if you wanted to make a new friend but were nervous?

Jamie



Maya



Mr. Carter



Principal Hayes



Ollie



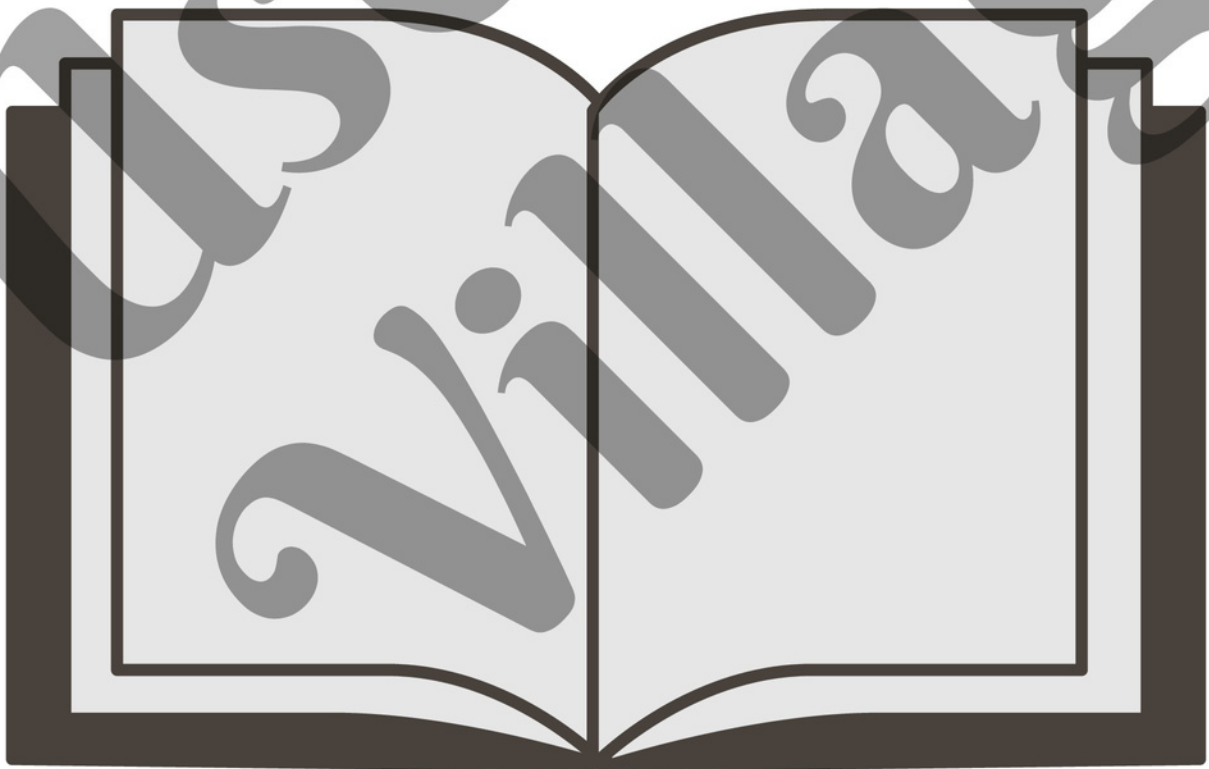
Janitor Lou



Librarian Ms. Reed



Narrator



Teacher Suggestions:

Assigning Roles: Consider your students' reading levels and confidence when assigning roles. Encourage students to practice their parts at home or during independent reading time.

Practicing Fluency: Have students practice their parts multiple times to build fluency and expression.

Props & Costumes: Use the optional props list to create simple, engaging props.

Character Labels: Students can also use the provided character names to either cut out to hang around their neck to help identify characters to the audience or alternatively draw and illustrate what they imagine their character to look like.

Performance: Arrange a space in the classroom where students can perform. Invite other students to watch the final performance to boost students' confidence and make it more special.

Reader Response Questions: Use the provided questions to facilitate a post-performance discussion. This will help assess comprehension and encourage students to think critically about the play.

Extension Activities

- **Create Your Own Scavenger Hunt:** Students can work in pairs to design their own simple scavenger hunt using Valentine's Day clues.
- **Write a Sequel:** What other fun mysteries could Sammie, Maya, and Ollie solve together?
- **Friendship Reflection:** Have students write about a time when they made a new friend and how it happened.