

Really Good Stuff® Activity Guide

Warm Heart Collaborative Book Kit™

Congratulations on your purchase of this **Really Good Stuff® Warm Heart Collaborative Book Kit™**. This kit includes all the materials and directions you need to create a beautiful and meaningful class book in just one sitting! Begin now to collect all the **Really Good Stuff Collaborative Book Kits™** so you can easily create an irresistible class library of student-authored books!

This Really Good Stuff® product includes:

- Reusable diecut book covers (front and back)
- 36 diecut blank book pages
- 36 diecut writing/illustration pages
- Binding ribbon
- This Really Good Stuff® Activity Guide

About this Collaborative Book Kit

This **Warm Heart Collaborative Book Kit™** provides the directions and materials you need to have each student in your class personalize one page to contribute to a class book. The kit provides reproducible pages printed with fun rhyming passages for your students to complete and illustrate, plus sets of ready-to-use blank and lined diecut pages. The bookmaking supplies are both sturdy and versatile, so you can use them again and again in many different ways. We also include plenty of suggestions for presenting and using all the different book pages. So all you need to do is assess your needs and begin!

Why Collaborative Books are Such a Terrific Literacy Tool

Each **Really Good Stuff® Collaborative Book Kit™** is designed to complement, enrich, and enhance any existing literacy program you have in place in your classroom. Here are some of the reasons you'll be glad you included making and using collaborative bookmaking sessions in your plans:

• Fun-Filled Group Effort

The collaborative bookmaking project is designed to involve every student in your class, regardless of individual developmental literacy skills and abilities.

• Easy-Breezy Approach to Publishing

This book model is easy to present and complete. All the steps are laid out for you — and the materials are ready to use.

• Fail-Safe

You cannot go wrong with this book kit. Just follow the directions in this guide and you and your young authors will have published a class book in no time. And because there are so many ways to create these books, you can automatically choose the class activity that best meets your students' individual learning styles and abilities.

• Fosters Respect and Appreciation

Collaborative books provide you with a great opportunity to model how your students can appreciate all the many different ways they can complete a similar page for a particular book selection. It is fun and amazing to see all the different page treatments emerge!

• Embodies the Entire Writing Process

If you follow the step-by-step directions for putting this kit to work in your class, you will discover that the suggested approach to creating a collaborative book embodies many steps found in the traditional writing process. They include: brainstorming, rough drafting, editing, polishing, illustrating, publishing, and sharing.

• Teaches Parts of a Book

You can use a collaborative book to teach your students parts of a book, including the cover, copyright page, dedication page, Table of Contents page, and an "About the Authors and Illustrators" page. Plus, you can use the reproducible in this guide to add a Family Comments page(s). You can also number the book pages.

• Offers Opportunities to Foster Beginning Literacy Skills Including:

- Print Awareness: Understanding what constitutes print, that print stands for speech, and how print works.
- Alphabet Recognition: Understanding and recognizing alphabet letter shapes in different fonts, as well as the sounds the letters make.
- Phonemic Awareness: Understanding that words are made up of sounds. The rhyming elements (as well as instances of alliteration and assonance) featured in the collaborative book selections serve to improve students' sensitivity to the phonemes that make up our language.

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• Students Experience Themselves as Real Writers and Illustrators

When your students see their efforts and those of their classmates beautifully bound together between the covers of a “real” collaborative book, they feel a sense of pride and accomplishment. They are eager to read and reread each page of the book they wrote and illustrated. Because you took the time and effort to help them publish their work, they know you believe in their efforts and ideas.

• Easy to Build a Class Library

Really Good Stuff® Collaborative Book Kits™ are so easy and fun and effective, you will soon see how simple it is to build a whole library of these books. You will also notice your students reading and rereading the books they have created.

Book Page Choices and Suggestions for Use

This **Warm Heart Collaborative Book Kit™** comes complete with five different book page choices. Read through the descriptions below, decide what kind of book you want to make, and then select the right page design for that project.

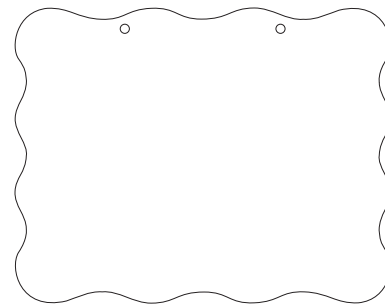
Tip: Having trouble deciding on just which book to make? No problem! Remember, the book covers are reusable. You can easily make a book with your class, enjoy it for awhile, then take that book apart, distribute book pages to your students, and reuse the covers to make the other selections!

- Diecut Heart-Shaped Pages (blank)
- Diecut Heart-Shaped Pages (with lines and spaces for illustrations)
- Heart-Shaped Book Page Reproducible (printed with “Caring & Sharing” rhyme)
- Heart-Shaped Book Page Reproducible (printed with “Valentine’s Day” rhyme)
- Heart-Shaped Book Page Reproducible (printed with “Happy, Healthy Heart” rhyme)

(Tip: As your book will be a “published” effort that necessitates standard spelling, you will want to consider having your students make a rough copy of their writing before using the diecut or reproduced shape pages to write or copy words.)

Using the Diecut Heart-Shaped Pages (Blank)

You can use these pages any way you wish, but here are some ideas to try!



• Heartfelt Poetry Books

Have your students use pages in the books to copy or compose some heartfelt poetry. It can be as simple as, “Roses are red, violets are blue _____ is sweet and so are you!” or you might print the word LOVE or HEART vertically down each page and have your students use the letters to create acrostic poems listing things they love. Example:

Lollipops
Octopi
Violets
Elephants

• Reader Response Books

Have your students use pages to illustrate a favorite part of an heart-inspired story or book shared in class. Have students dictate captions for you to record on each page.

• Tongue Twister Books

After talking about words that begin with h (for heart) or l (for love) or v (for Valentine), use the pages to record tongue twisters your students write or dictate, with each word beginning with the same letter. Tell them first to think of a person, place, or thing word (noun), then to think of a word to describe the person, place, or thing (adjective), then to think of an action word (verb), then to think of yet another person, place, or thing word (noun) and another adjective describing this second noun. All words begin with the target letter sound. Example:

Happy hearts hop on huge hippos.
Lonely loons leap on lemon lollipops.

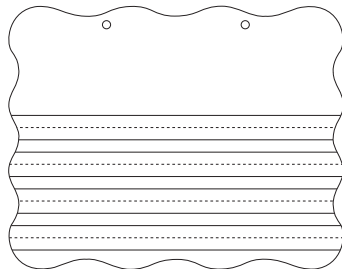
Students can then illustrate their ideas.

• Scrapbook Pages

Have your students provide digital photos from home that they have permission to glue onto blank pages. Offer your students art supplies (stickers, glitter glue, paper scraps) to embellish their photos. Have your students dictate captions for you to record on each page.

Variation: Create a class scrapbook in which you use digital photos of class happenings; have students take turns dictating captions for you to record on each page. Add pages over time.

Using the Diecut Heart Shape Pages (with Lines & Spaces for Illustrations)



• List Books

Have your students each create a short list of people or things they love — or experiences they are looking forward to experiencing alone or with loved ones. Title your book, *People, Places, and Things We Love*.

• Loving Alphabet Books

Create an alphabet book by offering each student a target alphabet letter and then using the space on the page to illustrate at least one thing they love that begins with that letter. (Tip: You can have all 26 letters represented or just the letters your students have learned to date, adding others as they are mastered.) Students can use the lines to write a sentence that tells why they chose that item as a favorite. Example:

*Aa is for apples. Apples are crunchy.
Bb is for Bears. Bears are soft.*

• Number Books

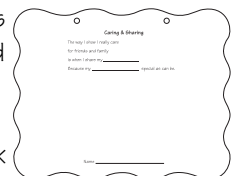
Use each page of the book to have your students print one numeral and the corresponding word label (e.g., 1 and one). Then have them use the space to draw that many hearts. You can also have your students use the lines to write simple number sentences ($1 + 1 = 2$), then illustrate the number sentences by drawing and circling sets of hearts separated by operation signs (+, -) and the sum or difference following the equal sign (=).

Using the Heart-Shaped Book Page Reproducibles (Each Printed with a Thematic Rhyme)

- *Caring & Sharing*
- *Valentine's Day*
- *Happy, Healthy Heart*

1. Choose one selection from the reproducibles listed above. Make enough copies so each student has one page. Set aside.
2. Establish a context and purpose for presenting your target selection to the class. To get your students thinking about the theme at hand, ask them to tell you what they know about the topic. Or read aloud a children's book related to the theme of your collaborative book.
3. Tell your students that they are going to be working together to write, illustrate, and publish their own book about this same theme. Explain that by "publish," you mean you are going to help them create book pages that clearly show their ideas, so that other people can read and enjoy them, too.

Caring & Sharing: To prepare your students for this selection, talk about how caring and sharing are related. Ask your students to tell about times caring friends and family members have shared things with them. Talk also about how it is sometimes hard to share possessions and other things. (Please note—in the last line of this selection there are two blank spaces. That's so students can correctly record singular or plural answers. (E.g., *Because my toys are special as can be*, or *Because my doll is special as can be*.)



Valentine's Day: This selection invites your students to think about the ways they show their love for those they care about. After brainstorming a list of ideas for expressing love, and after completing this book, your students will readily understand that there are many different ways to show love.



Happy, Healthy Heart: Talk with your students about their hearts. Have them jump up and down for 20 seconds so they can feel their hearts pumping as they work. Help them understand that the heart is a muscle that pumps blood and oxygen (they breathe in with air) through their entire bodies. Talk with your students about some foods that might help their hearts stay healthy. Talk also about different exercises they can do to keep their hearts pumping strong.



4. Copy the rhyming selection as it appears on the book page onto a large surface, such as a whiteboard or a chart pad. You can also copy the selection onto sentence strips and display them in a pocket chart.
5. Read the selection several times to the class, running your hand beneath the print as you go. (Tip: For this first reading, you might want to just slot a response of your choice into the blank space[s]. Underline each filled-in blank so students will see the places where they are expected to provide substitutions.)
6. Hold an echo reading in which you read one line to them and they read the same line back to you. Repeat this process, adding one line at a time, until students have actually memorized the passage and can “read” it to you.
7. Ask your students for possible substitutions for the underlined word(s) in order to complete the selection in alternative ways. If you are using a whiteboard or chart paper, draw a horizontal line beneath the entire selection. Use the space below the selection to record students’ ideas. Test out each idea by recording it into the selection and reading the selection aloud together. If you are using a pocket chart, record students’ responses on sentence strip segments. Insert each response in turn into the blank space(s) in the selection and read each version aloud together.
8. Offer students copies of the book pages.
9. Reread the section together on the small page. Help your students understand that the book pages contain the same passage they just were working with in the large format.
10. Guide your students to see that the blank spaces on the book pages correspond to the underlined word(s) in the big version of the selection.
11. Offer your students scrap paper so they can use developmental spelling to make a “rough draft” of their responses.
12. Help them edit responses and copy the polished work onto the book page. (Tip: Students can also just dictate responses to copy onto book pages.)
13. Talk together about how they plan on illustrating their book pages.
14. Have your students add illustrations using crayons or colored pencils. Caution your students to not color over words. (Tip: Avoid letting your students use markers to complete illustrations, as these tend to bleed through copy paper and obliterate print.)

About the Family Comments Reproducible Page

This guide includes a reproducible *Family Comments* page for you to copy and bind into your books. This page is designed to help you build that all-important home/school connection. It’s important to circulate your completed

books among your students’ families. That way, families can enjoy their children’s efforts up close. This page invites families to record a favorable comment right inside your published book. By including this page in your books, you invite families who will read the books at home to notice and positively reinforce their children’s publishing efforts. Students are eager to read families’ comments as they come back to class, so this page provides your students with yet another opportunity to encounter positive reinforcement for their efforts.

The image shows a sample of the 'Family Comments' page. It is a cloud-shaped frame with two punch holes at the top. Inside the frame, the text reads: 'Dear Families: We welcome your feedback on our book. Please write a positive comment on the lines below. Thank you!' Below this is a 'Sample:' section with the text: 'We loved all the wonderful heart art in this book! The Lovey Family'. There are seven horizontal lines provided for writing a comment.

Completing, Assembling, and Binding Your Collaborative Book

After your students have completed their individual book pages, you can consider adding additional book pages like those found in a real book:

- Title page, featuring title of book and byline.
- Table of Contents pages (featuring each student’s name and the page number his or her contribution appears on)
- Dedication/copyright page (e.g., © 2007 Ms. Smith Publishing).
- About the Authors and Illustrators page, complete with a digital class photo and a description of what the class enjoys or what they are learning (e.g., “Ms. Smith’s first-grade class enjoyed exploring the theme of caring and sharing!”)

To bind your book, place completed book pages between the book covers and thread ribbon through the holes. Tie loosely in place so book pages can turn easily, and so you can add new pages if you want.

Use a permanent marker (adult use only) to personalize the cover of your book with the book title as well as your name (and grade, if desired). You can also use permanent markers, glitter glue, or puff paints to outline or add decorative touches such as facial features. You can also opt to glue on buttons or sequins or foam pieces to add interest, depth, and texture.

Cover Tip: If you plan on reusing the book covers to make another book, do not use permanent marker to label the book cover with a title that fits only one selection or topic. Instead, just label your book with its shape’s name (e.g., Warm Heart) and then any book pages you create will align with your book cover.

Family Comments

Dear Families:
We welcome your feedback on our book. Please write a positive comment on the lines below.
Thank you!

Sample:
We loved all the wonderful heart art in this book!
The Lovey Family

• _____

• _____

• _____

• _____

• _____

• _____

Caring & Sharing

The way I show I really care

For friends and family

Is when I share my _____

Because my _____ special as can be.

Name _____

Valentine's Day

Today's the day for hearts and sweets

And flowers and cards and lace.

Today's the day we show we care

And spread smiles all over the place.

I show my love for those people I care about when I

_____.

Name _____

Happy, Healthy Heart

My heart, it takes good care of me.

It pumps blood through my whole body.

I take good care of my heart, too.

I exercise and eat _____.

How about you?

Name _____