# ISSUES FOR ALL SEASONS



## ISSUE 4: FINDING THE RIGHT PARTNER

#### **VALENTINE'S DAY**



## FINDING THE RIGHT PARTNER

#### **INTRODUCTION:**

What do you know about Valentines Day? Do you think it is a modern celebration? Well, this unit is devoted to Valentine's Day, therefore, it will explore various issues related to the way young people approach love and dating.

We will think about the environment and discuss whether the business of sending cards on Valentine's Day is ecology friendly or not.

There will be two games. In the first game, you will shop around, being able to "build" the perfect partner. In the second one, you are going to write a secret message for somebody in the class.

Moreover, the unit will also deal with the new ways of dating using new technologies and we will compare the ways of meeting people. We will decide which ones are actually more successful than others are and why.

In addition, we will watch some scenes from two films (1940 and 1998) in which the main characters become friends through letter writing/email writing and eventually set a blind date to meet.

Finally, we will see the matchmaker scene of the film Fiddler on the Roof.

#### **HOW TO DEVELOP A UNIT: GUIDELINE FOR TEACHERS**

All units have a similar structure. Each unit has an introduction to the subject, a guideline with the explanation of all the activities and two grids to check how you can carry out the activities, what concepts the pupils will learn and what skills they will be practicing.

The teacher is provided with information on all and every topic to be developed. It is not necessary to carry out all the activities featured in the unit. Therefore, the teacher is free to choose what activities he or she considers interesting.

Before the beginning of the unit, each pupil is furnished with a handout called **background file.** This is an activity to be carried out surfing the internet with the use of the URLs provided in the handout. This activity is design so that at the beginning of the unit each student has minimum information on the topics to be presented by the teacher. Complete a background file is an easy and attractive activity and, at the same time, with the handing out of the pupil's exercise, the teacher has the possibility of evaluating how well the pupils have performed this activity.

Some units feature a **warming up activity** with the aim of encouraging pupils to take an active part in the following activity.

The **brainstorm activity** always follows the **warming up activity** and has the purpose of furnishing the pupils with the useful vocabulary they will need in order to carry out the activities featured in the issue. However, it is up to the teacher to decide how to adapt this activity to the pupils, according to their needs.

Next, there is always a wide rage of **activities** planned to develop all skills while learning about the topics featured in the issue. There are texts to read with worksheets to check the student's comprehension; short essays to develop either the writing skills, as well as songs, films or recorded conversations to practice oral skills. In addition, some of the activities provide short essays on the topic for the teachers to read before hand.

Finally, there is an activity called **food for thought**, which is a short passage for the pupils to read, think and express their own ideas in the final activity. This last activity is called **let the discussion begin.** According to the level of English the pupils have, the teacher can either let the students discuss about the subject dealt in the unit, or prepare a role-play. The latter will be a directed oral activity, easier for pupils who have less fluency in English.

At the end of each unit, there is also the **bibliography** with useful books or URLs on the topic.

#### **HOW TO DEVELOP UNIT 4**

**Background file:** This is an activity to be carried out surfing the internet with the use of the provided URLs. Pupils should be able to scan a text and get the right information. This task can be completed in **45 minutes** and the teacher will collect the pupils' essays and evaluate their work. 6

**Warming up activity**: This is an activity to encourage the students to talk in English. They will write two names and a date on a sticker. They have to stand up and move around the class. They can ask their classmates and be asked at the same time. It is a good exercise to talk about their good memories while having fun. (15 minutes) 7

**Brainstorm:** The brainstorm activity gives the teacher the possibility of introducing the pupils to the topic to be developed and to make the pupils aware of what values will be dealt with in the issue. Teacher elicits students in order to produce a file with useful vocabulary. They should learn the necessary vocabulary for the unit. (40 minutes) 8

**Reading Comprehension: eco-friendly gifts.** Pupils are given a handout with a reading comprehension about Valentine Day, Valentine gifts and how you can make your Valentine Day more eco-friendly. The pupils will be using some of the vocabulary gathered in the brainstorm. (45 minutes) 9

**Game 1: Shopping around for the right partner.** Each pupils is given a \$200 cheque to be spent on qualities he or she would like to find in the right partner. The teacher will stick a series of lists with items to be purchased on the walls. The pupils will stand up and move around in order to spend their money. They have to spend it all, but they cannot spend more money that the amount they have been given. After they have finished everybody sits down and tells the others about his/her choice. (55 minutes)

**Finding the right partner in the internet:** You need to work in the computer room. Pupils will have to go to a match making site where people try to find a partner or a friend. They have to browse a little bit, read other people descriptions of themselves before they pretend to create their own profile. It is a very funny activity to practice people's descriptions. The pupils should write their profile in a document and print it to hand it to the teacher. (55 minutes) 12

**Ways of meeting people and making friends:** This is an oral activity to express opinions. They will be given a flashcard with images suggesting the places where you can meet people. They can work in pairs or maybe even in bigger groups. (20 minutes) 21

**Game 2: Writing a secret message:** Each student is given a piece of paper with a name from one of the classmates in it. Everybody will write a secret message for his/her secret friend in the class. It will be a Valentine's message with some clue so that the class can guess whom the message is for.

The teacher will collect all the messages and will put them together. A couple of days later, all the messages will be gathered in a booklet and the students will try to guess whom the message is for. 22

Write a love /friendship message (40 minutes)

**text messaging:** Pupils need to be in the computer room to look up a provided site in the internet and write a message to one of his/her classmates using text message language and smiles. When they are ready, each pupil should read his/her message and answer it. The teacher can collect each pupil's work for evaluation. **(55 minutes)** 24

**Film activity:** The teacher needs to have both films, **Shop around the Corner** and **You've Got Mail** in order to prepare this activity. The teacher has to pick the scenes that are necessary to complete the student's handout on the film. They need not watch both films completely. It is a good activity for the pupils to be able to distinguish the cultural differences in a 60-year gap (**90 minutes**) 26

**Matchmaker, Matchmaker:** The teacher needs to have the DVD **Fiddler on the Roof** or else go to the computer room, so that the pupils can follow the song in You Tube. It is a good activity for the pupils to practice listening skills and to talk about former habits in society, such as matchmakers. (**30 minutes**) 28

#### **BACKGROUND FILE**







Check the web sites provided and find out the information required. Write a short summary and paste images to illustrate your essay. Save the document in your file or print it.

- 1. Who was St. Valentine? http://www.history.com/minisites/valentine
- 2. Why did the Church Christianized this celebration? http://www.history.com/minisites/valentine
- 3. When did it become popular in the UK? http://www.history.com/minisites/valentine
- 4. How many million cards are posted every year around the world on Valentines Day? <a href="http://www.history.com/minisites/valentine">http://www.history.com/minisites/valentine</a>
- 5. What is a matchmaker? Are matchmakers still used today? <a href="http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Matchmaking">http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Matchmaking</a>
- 6. *Matchmaker*, *Matchmaker* is a song from the famous Broadway musical *Fiddler on the Roof*. Who wrote it? Who played the role of Tevye in the film? Were was this actor from?

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fiddler on the Roof

http://www.boboz.us/specialCards/words matchmker.htm

- 6. The following website is asking you to be more "eco logical" with your Valentine cards and gifts.
  - What are the main problems that the card business generates?
  - What solutions does the website suggest?

 $\underline{\text{http://www.grinningplanet.com/2005/02-08/paper-greeting-cards-waste-recycle-article.htm}$ 

#### **WARMING UP ACTIVITY**





The teacher will provide you with a blank sticker. In it, you will write the name of somebody you love, the name of a song that brings you good memories and a date that is significant to you. Then you will stick it in your shoulder and every body will stand up and will go around the class. You will ask your partners what the meaning of their names, dates are, and they will ask you about yours. Then sit down and tell the class what sticker surprised you most.

Somebody I love

My favourite song

A date significant to me

#### **BRAINSTORM**





Let's make our own file and vocabulary. What do you know about Valentine's Day? What do you think is traditional about that day?

- The colours of Valentine's Day
- Presents for Valentine's Day
- Ways to be eco friendly with gifts
- Valentine's Day and St. Jordi
- Types of relationship among young people
- · Qualities you like and dislike in partners and friends
- · Romantic songs, books and f

#### READING COMPREHENSION





Read the text and think about whether valentine cards are environmentally friendly or not?



#### **Eco-Valentines Day**

## Show your affection for the planet as well as the love of your life 07/02/2006

#### Best of both worlds

Valentine's Day is a great excuse for sending tokens of love to your nearest and dearest and to a secret admirer, or two!

But in our desire to show affection for each other, we can overdo it and create a lot of waste.

However, with a little planning, we can choose gifts and goodies that will bring joy to loved ones while caring for the planet.

#### Around 24 million Valentine's cards are sent in the UK each year.

Here are some top tips for making yours greener:

- try and choose a card from a local craft market, especially from designers who use recycled materials
- make your own, if you're artistically gifted
- look for cards in charity shops, where you know the profits are going to a good cause
- always avoid over-packaged cards
- remember to recycle your card or cards! via your council's cardboard collections
- send an e-card or text message they are good for the environment and for your pocket (especially if you have more than one secret love!)



#### What about that Valentine's gift?

There's nothing wrong with flowers and chocolates, but there are ways of improving on the old tried and tested formulas:

- avoid flowers sent by mail order they require so much packaging just to keep them safe during transit
- order flowers from a local florist and ask for them to be wrapped in paper that can be recycled and remember to compost the flowers afterwards
- choose chocolate with the Fair Trade label it helps communities in need and with a higher cocoa content, it simply tastes delicious
- if bling is your thing, consider **jewellery that is made from recycled materials** for a change
- if you want to pamper your loved one, choose cosmetics that are organic and not tested on animals
- if they're the star of your life, name a star after them.

#### **Romantic Dining**

Valentine's Day wouldn't be complete without the romantic meal. It's easier, and cosier, to go green at home.

- Save energy romantically and dine by candlelight.
- Buy your food from a farmer's market and sip organic champagne from recycled glassware.

http://www.recyclenow.com/news/seasonal\_news/ecovalentines.html?printversion

#### **ANSWER THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS:**

1.	What is your colour if you care about environment?
2.	Where is it best to buy your gifts?
3.	What is the cheapest and eco friendliest way of sending Valentine cards?
4.	What do you do with the flowers once they have withered?
5.	What kind of chocolates should you get and why?
6.	If you use candles for your dinner what two objectives do you achieve?

#### **GAME 1: SHOPPING AROUND FOR YOUR IDEAL PARTNER**

Each pupil in the class is going to get a cheque worth \$200, which he/she has to spend on the qualities that she/he would like to find in his/her future partner. The sets of qualities with their prices will hang on the class walls. At the end of the activity, each pupil will show what he/she has bought and they have to explain the reason why they have chosen these qualities. In addition, they have to tell why they have chosen such qualities.

would like to meet somebody who	
or \$5	
For \$10	
For \$15	
or \$25	
For \$50	
For \$75	
or \$100	

## \$5 I would like to meet somebody who...

- . loves the Simpson's
- . loves circus
- . loves horse riding and owns a horse
- . is a fan of OT
- . is a good swimmer
- . has a powerful voice
- . owns a 50cc motorbike
- . has beautiful blond hair
- . has beautiful dark hair
- . plays the guitar
- . sings well
- .buys pop corn at the cinema
- . is a fast food lover
- . likes singing in a choir
- . loves trains
- . loves flying

## \$10 I would like to meet somebody who...

- . owns a 125 cc motorbike
- . loves classical music and opera

. is tall and slim

. loves comics

. sings well

. loves collecting things

- . likes dancing
- . is a disco lover
- . is a cinema lover
- . likes politics
- . is religious
- . is religious and goes to church
- . likes watching TV
- . loves reading books
- . loves computer
- . loves video games
- . likes giving presents
- . loves sports
- . loves football
- . supports Barça
- . loves going to rock concerts
- . likes going to the theatre

## \$15 I would like to meet somebody who...

- . does not smoke .
- . does not drink
- . is good at DYJ and who is able to fix almost everything
- . owns a 250cc motorbike
- . is an animal lover
- . loves cats
- . loves dogs
- . is a music lover
- . is fashionable
- . speaks foreign languages
- . loves children
- . would like to have a big family
- . loves parties and going out at night to dance and drink
- . is well learned, interested in art and science
- . is quiet and doesn't talk much

## \$25 I would like to meet somebody who...

- . owns a 1500 cc motorbike
- . is a clean person and smells well
- . likes travelling
- . doesn't snore at night
- . likes spending money
- . is chatty, somebody who loves talking
- . is outgoing and loves laughing
- . belongs to aristocracy and has a nobility title
- . is adventurous
- . is brave
- . is independent
- . is optimistic

### \$50 I would like to meet somebody who...

- . has a good sense of humour and always makes you laugh
- . is always in a good mood and who is positive
- . has a good figure
- . owns a beautiful and smart sports car
- . has a well built body
- . owns a house at the seaside
- . owns a car
- . is not jealous
- . is a celebrity
- . enjoys sex
- . is romantic
- . is willing to share the housework and loves doing the cooking
- . likes saving money, somebody who will not waste money on superfluous things
- . is sincere and will always tell you the truth
- . is sensible and understands when you need help and is always thinks what you need or would like
- . is industrious, hard working
- . is romantic
- . is sympathetic. Somebody who is solider with all people and causes and who would not mind work as a volunteer

## \$75 I would like to meet somebody who...

- is extremely good looking and attractive
- has a lot of money, somebody who is wealthy
- is generous in all senses and supportive
- fair, with a high sense of justice
- is tender and caring

# \$100 I would like to meet somebody who... • is loyal. Somebody who will always support you, who will always be your partner and your best friend and will never cheat on you • is intelligent • is entrepreneur. Somebody who is hardworking, always able to start a business and make money

## FINDING THE RIGHT PARTNER IN THE INTERNET







You are going to browse an internet site called MATCHMAKER.COM, which offers online dating.

#### http://www.matchmaker.com/

You will write a description of yourself and of the partner you expect to find. Then the teacher will collect the sheets of paper and will put them together for the next class. You will have to guess whom you think the description belongs to.

#### WHERE DO YOU LIVE?

WHAT KIND OF RELATIONSHIP ARE YOU LOOKING FOR?

#### WHAT MAKES YOU UNIQUE?

Hair/eye colour/height/weight/body type/ethnicity/occupation/faith/smoking and drinking habits/languages

#### WHAT SHOULD OTHERS KNOW ABOUT YOU?

Tell us about yourself and about what you are looking for.

#### WAYS OF MEETING PEOPLE AND MAKING FRIENDS





You will be given a flashcard with several pictures of possible ways of meeting and dating people; ways that are fashionable nowadays. Split in groups of four or five and talk about the issue. Later, one of you is going to tell the class what the opinion of your group is.

Think about advantages and disadvantages of each place or means.

In class

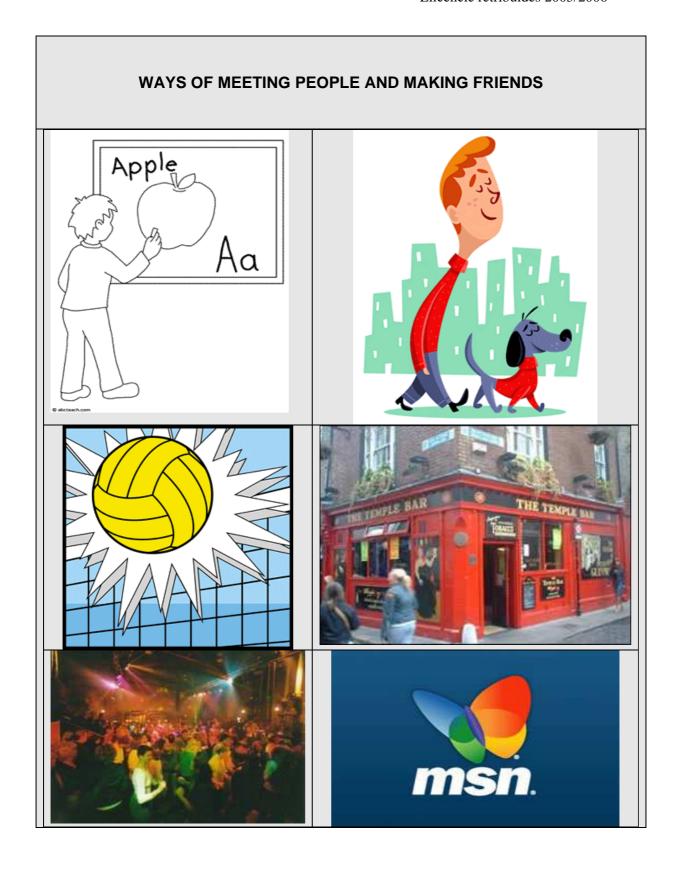
Walking your dog

At a sports centre / leisure centre / at a match

At the pub

In the disco

Through the MSM



#### GAME 2

## WRITING A SECRET MESSAGE







Each student is given a piece of paper with a name from one of the classmates in it. Everybody will write a secret message for his/her secret friend in the class. It will be a Valentine's message with some clue so that the class can guess whom the message is for.

The teacher will collect all the messages and will put them together. A couple of days later, all the messages will be gathered in a booklet and the students will try to guess whom the message is for.



#### **TEXT MESSAGING**







Look up this site <a href="http://www.webopedia.com/quick\_ref/textmessageabbreviations.asp">http://www.webopedia.com/quick\_ref/textmessageabbreviations.asp</a> in the internet and write a message to a friend using text message language and smiles.



#### **FILM ACTIVITY**







We are going to watch scenes from two films:
1998 You've Got Mail, directed by Nora Ephron
1940 Shop around the Corner, directed by Ernst Lubitsch
You've Got Mail is a remake of the first film but the way in which the characters meet and get in touch is completely different.





The Shop Around the Corner (1940) is a romantic comedy film, directed by Ernst Lubitsch, and starring James Stewart and Margaret Sullavan. It appears to have been inspired by *Parfumerie* (1937), a Hungarian play written by Miklós László.[1] The film was deemed "culturally significant" by the United States Library of Congress and selected for preservation in the National Film Registry.

Set in Budapest, the film is about co-workers Klara (Margaret Sullavan) and Alfred (James Stewart) who hold an intense dislike for each other, while maintaining a secret letter-writing relationship, not realizing who their secret pen-pal is.

**You've Got Mail** is an American romantic comedy released in 1998 by Warner Brothers. It is a remake of the film, *The Shop Around the Corner* (1940), in which two letter-writing lovers are completely unaware that their sweetheart is in fact the coworker with whom they share a certain degree of animosity... *You've Got Mail* was directed by Nora Ephron and is set in the Upper West Side of New York City.

Meg Ryan portrays Kathleen Kelly who is involved with Frank Navasky (Greg Kinnear). While Frank, as a newspaper writer for the New York Observer, is devoted to the typewriter, Kathleen prefers her laptop and logging into her AOL e-mail account. There, using the avatar *Shopgirl*, Kathleen communicates with *NY152*. This is the avatar for Joe Fox (Tom Hanks). Joe belongs to the Fox family which runs a chain of "mega" bookstores, *Fox Books*. Kathleen, on the other hand, runs the independent bookstore, *The Shop Around The Corner*, that her mother ran before her. The central conflict of the film revolves around the ability of Kathleen and Joe to interact well in virtual reality while they are business competitors in the "real world." A persistent mode of dramatic irony appears when Kathleen and Joe read each others emails....

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The Shop Around the Corner http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/You%27ve Got Mail





#### **FILM ACTIVITY**

#### Answer the following questions after having watched the film scenes.

- 1. Describe how the main characters in both films get in contact.
- 2. The main characters work in shops. What do they sell? How different are the shops in both films.
- 3. What is the name of the little shop in You've Got Mail?
- 4. In what cities do the stories in both films take place?
- 5. There is a 48 year-gap between both films. Describe the differences in the way the characters behave and dress.
- 6. Compare the relationship of the shop owner and his employees in **Shop Around the Corner** to that of **You've Got Mail**.
- 7. How have shops changed in 48 years?
- 8. There is a scene in both films when the main characters finally meet for the first time. Compare both scenes.
- 9. The female protagonists in both films are in love with a sensitive man, but the reality happens to show them a different kind of man. What is in fact his real personality?
- 10. Compare the final scene, when she finally finds out the truth, in both films.







#### Fiddler on the Roof



Fiddler on the Roof is a well-known Broadway musical that first opened on September 22, 1964, with music by Jerry Bock, lyrics by Sheldon Harnick, and libretto by Joseph Stein. It was later made into a successful movie musical. The original Broadway cast included Zero Mostel as the protagonist Tevye the Milkman, Maria Karnilova as his wife Golde, Beatrice Arthur as Yente the Matchmaker, and Bert Convy as Perchik the student revolutionary.

Originally entitled simply *Tevye*, the musical is based on *Tevye and his Daughters*, or *Tevye the Milkman* originally published by the Russian Jewish author Sholom Aleichem in 1894.

Chaim Topol would play Tevye in later productions; he also starred in the successful 1971 film adaptation by Norman Jewison. Other stage actors to have played Tevye include Alfie Bass, Herschel Bernardi, Theodore Bikel, Leonard Nimoy, Harvey Fierstein and Alfred Molina.

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fiddler\_On\_The\_Roof

Let us watch the matchmaker scene of the video and follow the song lyrics :



## Matchmaker, Matchmaker

from Fiddler on the Roof
Music by Jerry Bock; lyrics by Sheldon Harnick;
based on the stories of Sholem Aleichem

Let us watch the matchmaker scene of the video and follow the song lyrics :

matchmaker look through your book
And make me a perfect match

Matchmaker, matchmaker I'll bring the veil You bring the groom slender and pale Bring me a ring for I'm longing to be

Matchmaker, matchmaker make me a match Find me a find, catch me a catch Matchmaker The envy of all I see

For poppa make him a scholar
For momma make him rich as a king
For me, well I wouldn't holler
If he were as handsome as anything

Matchmaker, matchmaker make me a match Find me a find, catch me a catch Night after night in the dark I'm alone So make me a match of my own

> Hodel, oh Hodel Have I made a match for you He's handsome, he's young

Alright, he's 62
But he's a nice man
A good catch, true? True
I promise you'll be happy
And even if you're not
There's more to life than that
Don't ask me what

Chava I've found him
Will you be a lucky bride
He's handsome, he's tall
That is from side to side
But he's a nice man
A good catch, right? Right
You've heard he's got a temper
He'll beat you every night
But only when he's sober
So you're all right

Did you think you'd get a prince?

Well I do the best I can

With no dowry, no money, no family background

Be glad you've got a man

Matchmaker, matchmaker you know that I'm Still very young, please take your time Up to this minute I misunderstood That I could get stuck for good

Dear Yente see that he's gentle Remember you were also a bride It's not that I'm sentimental It's just that I'm terrified

Matchmaker, matchmaker plan me no plans I'm in no rush, maybe I've learned Playing with matches a girl can get burned So bring me no ring, groom me no groom Find me no find, catch me no catch Unless he's a matchless match

#### **BIBLIOGRAPHY, RESAURCES AND LINKS**

#### **FILMS**

1998 Nora Ephron 's You've Got Mail 1940 Ernst Lubitsch's Shop around the Corner 1971 Norman Jewison's Fiddler on the Roof

#### **IMAGES** from Google images

#### **INTERNET LINKS**

#### Background file

http://www.history.com/minisites/valentine

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Matchmaking

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fiddler\_on\_the\_Roof

http://www.boboz.us/specialCards/words\_matchmker.htm

http://www.grinningplanet.com/2005/02-08/paper-greeting-cards-waste-recycle-article.htm

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#### Reading Comprehension

http://www.recyclenow.com/news/seasonal\_news/ecovalentines.html?printversion

#### Finding the right partner

http://www.matchmaker.com/

http://www.webopedia.com/quick\_ref/textmessageabbreviations.asp

#### Film activity

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The Shop Around the Corner

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/You%27ve\_Got\_Mail

#### Song activity

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fiddler\_On\_The\_Roof

http://www.boboz.us/specialCards/words matchmker.htm

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