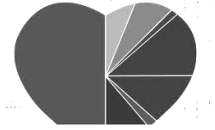


MATTERS OF THE HEART



An abstract idea is something you can have but cannot touch. Let's spend some time thinking about that. For example, time, hope, loneliness, joy, (your ideas) _____, and _____ are all examples of abstract ideas. One of the best ways to describe abstract ideas is through poetry (and songwriting). This week, as we mull over matters of the heart, we will read and write some poetry that shows some of the many faces of love.

If we were going to turn matters of the heart into a pie chart, I believe the biggest fraction would be devoted to specific people in our lives. On the other hand, our pie charts could be filled with items other than people- like our pets or our favorite possessions. You can love a stuffed animal, a piece of sports equipment, or a favorite spoon you've had your whole life. You can love places (tree house, play grounds, Vermont); you can love seasons, songs, and smells. You can love moments in time (sledding down a hill, the first sip, laughing, good news) and you can just love being alive in that moment.

Love can be your happiest times, and sometimes it is love that makes sadness well up too. Our class is going to read and write some poetry based on these ideas. We will start by writing one poem together- trying to say what we think about love. Each of you will write one stanza and then we will put the stanzas together into one class poem. Your stanza will have 5 lines describing what love can feel like. What might you write? Below are some thoughts written by former room 302 students.

Love is like...

1. a warm hand amongst cold ones
2. *glue. It sticks people together.
3. electro magnets you cannot keep them apart,
4. *tracks and a train- they feel better together.
5. tidal waves because love can be very unexpected
6. *a stream because it reaches its destination slowly

- Your job is to write at least 7 ideas on the next page.
- Then pick your favorite 5. Put an asterisk next to them. These 5 ideas will become your stanza.
- At least 2 of your ideas must have reasons that explain your thinking. See lines **2, 4, 6.**
