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Black History Month

Shriya Raja

In 1619, 20 African indentured servants were brought to Jamestown, Virginia. In 1820, the Missouri Compromise outlawed slavery above the 36°, 30° latitude line. In 1850, Harriet Beecher Stowe published “Uncle Tom’s Cabin” as an angry response to the Fugitive Slave Act of 1850. In 1859, the last known slave ship arrived in the United States. In 1867, Howard University was founded and currently serves as the most prestigious Black Historical College and University (HBCU). In 1951, 16-year-old Barbara Johns led a student strike to demand new buildings to compensate for overcrowding. In 2008, the first African American president was elected in the United States, Barack Obama. All of these dates, these people, these events are what shaped the history of America. Our nation’s African-American population has impacted US history in ways I cannot even begin to describe. They have been in pain, they have mourned, they have suffered losses, but most importantly, they have fought. From the youngest to the oldest, they have fought for the rights they have today. This is the purpose of Black History Month. There was a time when Black citizens weren’t even acknowledged as humans, let alone American citizens. They were mistreated and subordinated in the name of the law, but times have evidently changed. There has been a significant shift in our nation for the better. Black citizens are now given the same rights as any other US citizen. They are teachers, leaders, and treated as equals, as they should be. Black History Month commemorates those that have contributed to this. It honors those that have fought for rights and those who continue to fight for those rights. On February 10, 1976, President Gerald Ford gave his famous speech and said, “We can seize the opportunity to honor the too-often neglected accomplishments of Black Americans in every area of endeavor throughout our history.” This message was and will always hold true in our nation as we celebrate Black History Month.



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Love is In the Air... And So Are Red Flags

Chastynee Bacey

With this month being about love, it's important to not be blinded by it. Here are 5 red flags to always be aware of:

1. **Overly Controlling:** A healthy relationship involves compromise and understanding around differences.
2. **Lack of Trust:** While some doubt is ok, complete distrust from either is not healthy.
3. **Physical, Emotional, or Mental Abuse:** Emotional/mental abuse can be just as damaging as physical abuse in the long run and still cause PTSD.
4. **Anger Management:** Being used as an intimidation tactic displays toxic behavior and can turn dangerous quickly.
5. **Codependency:** when two people rely on each other exclusively for emotional, psychological, and even physical support.



A Timeless Leader

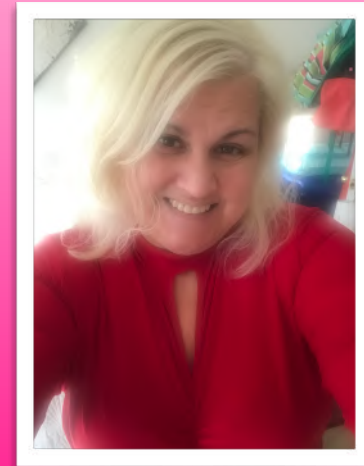
Nyreonna Myh'Dhanaeh

Gwendolyn Brooks, born on June 7, 1917 in Kansas, was a poet and author. She was a leader in black literature and the Black Arts Movement, giving voice to the black experience in her writing. In 1968, Brooks was named poet laureate of Illinois, and she published over 20 poetry collections altogether, notably *Annie Allen*. In 1950, Brooks won the Pulitzer Prize for *Annie Allen*, becoming the first African American woman to win the prize. The book follows the journey of Annie, a young black girl, as she grows up. The first section traces the day of her birth, details her coming of age, paints her dreams, and describes her first encounters with the struggles of the world. Similarly, "We Real Cool" from *The Bean Eaters* is one of Brooks's many popular poems, delving into both youthful rebellion and morality. Brooks's words, powerful and evocative, broke barriers and paved the way. To this day, her work is studied and inspires readers and writers. Her influence continues to be felt and will most definitely reign timelessly.



PRESIDENT'S NOTE

Our theme this month is Healthy Love. Growing up in an abusive environment, you really don't know what healthy love is or looks like. What I have learned is that you can learn even if you don't have an example. You can look for positive examples, and if you can't find it in a person, look for examples in movies or stories. "Love" always gives and "Lust" takes. If someone is always taking from you and you feel drained, that isn't love. Love is patient and kind. Love doesn't hurt you. Do you remain friends with people that hurt you? If so, love yourself enough to walk away. Also realize that if someone hurts you, it is their issue, not yours. Just forgive them and keep loving from a pure heart.



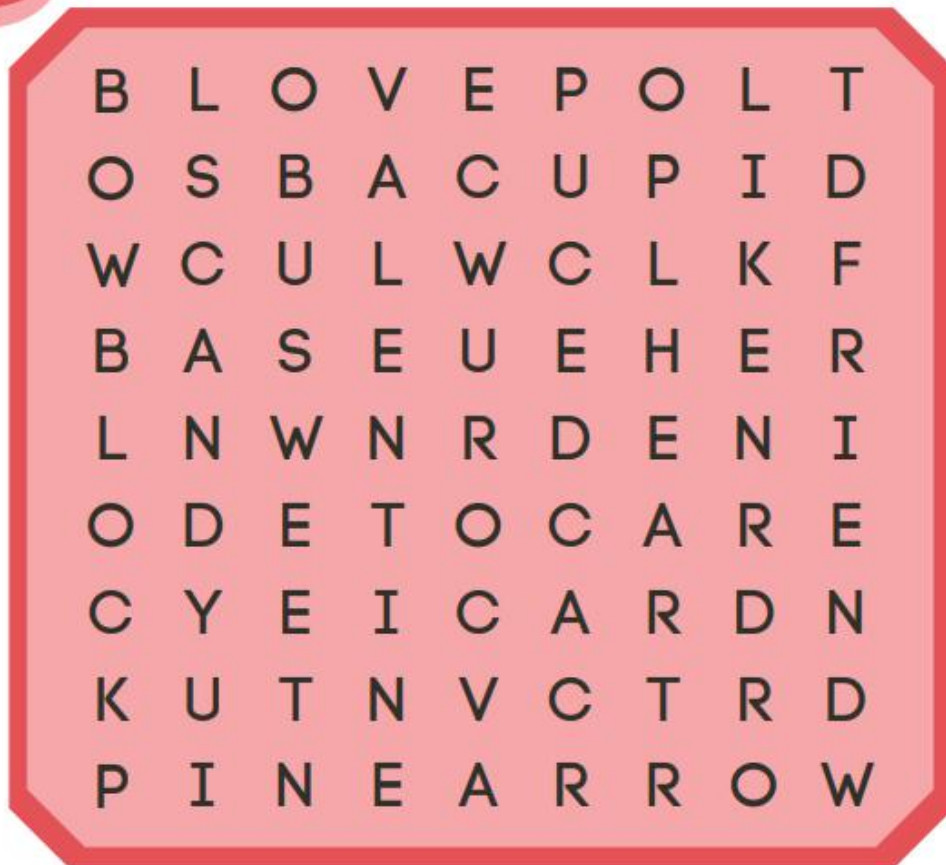
Activity Page: Valentine's Day Word Search

Chastynee Bacey

VALENTINE'S DAY WORD SEARCH



Circle words in the puzzle below



love	arrow	care	valentine
sweet	bow	friend	heart
like	candy	card	cupid