

My Parents' Love Valentine's Day Clichés



Emilee Montiel
—Staff Writer—

Since it is the month of February, I decided to show some love for my parents. I appreciate all of my parents' love and support for absolutely everything in my life.

Although I could spend forever going on and on about a significant other, my parents deserve the recognition for how awesome they are. Throughout the short sixteen years of my life, my parents have never left my side.

They don't give up on me, or any of my siblings, for that matter, even if they want to kill us all, at times. No matter what the circumstance is, both my mom and my dad both show their unending support for me. I do not believe I would ever be able to fully express my thankfulness for them.

When I was younger and decided to try my hand at playing basketball, my dad showed up to every single game, no matter where it was. He would give me advice on how to be "tougher" and up my game more. He was there every time, and would

never fail to encourage me when I happened to fall short.

I do not get sick very often, however, when I do, my mom turns into the hook-up. She makes her famous chicken noodle soup and does everything in her power to make me feel better. While this may not seem like a lot, in a time of need, it is all that I want.

I think that a lot of other students like myself take for granted the gift of having such good parents. My parents, like many of my fellow students' I'm sure, do not take enough time out of a day or even a week to thank our parents.

Not only am I very thankful for the love my parents provide me this month, but I am all the time as well. I know I am guilty of not acting like I have great parents at times, but I do. I hope that every other kid gets as lucky as I do with having such amazing parents.

My mom and dad have both been my broken-heart-healers, my number one fans, and my personal comedians for as long as I can remember. I believe especially with the month of "love," that we all need to take a moment out of our day to say "thanks."



Austyn McCormick
—Staff Writer—

February, the month of giving and getting love. Cuddling up with that special someone on the 14th of February. Going to watch a movie, receiving chocolate, receiving flowers or maybe even receiving a love letter. All the fun cheesy ways to show affection and they all are the same thing, they are all extremely cliché.

Let's start with everyone's favorite thing to receive, flowers. I would steer clear of anything that screams, "get well soon" or getting some pretty pity flowers. Flowers are great for hospital patients. But, Nothing is more romantic than a basket of flowers that you'll find in a graveyard or a hospital patients room.

Jumping right into a nice mouthful of cavities. A good box of chocolates that will definitely make you gain that relationship weight you've been so scared to gain. A box of chocolates that makes your dentist run for the hills. Nothing like a box of pure sugar that will give you a nice mouthful of cavities.

Dating back to 1822 when the first poor man gave his wife a big box of chocolate. Now making chocolate a go to gift for a loved one.

My personal favorite, romantic movies. Snuggled up with the person you love the most, watching a movie of the perfect couple. Nothing tops crying because your relationship will never be that good. Holding each other while you both sweat in each others arms. Holding in your pee because he's laying on you and at any moment in time it could be game over for the both of you. You both begin to stink because it's 72 degrees inside and your girlfriend wanted a nice warm blanket. Sounds super romantic to me.

How about a nice romantic dinner? Nothing says I love you like you both stuffing your faces. Looking at that special someone while food drops into their laps and there is food on that fancy shirt that you wore. So romantic spending eighty dollars on a two person meal. Having to talk quietly because you have an audience of others eating dinner at the same place. You will have to wait an hour just to get a seat with food crumbs on the seats,

sounds like the best date to me. Definitely sounds romantic to me.

My goodness let's not get me started on the teddy bears. I am not just talking about the average sized stuffed animals. The 4 foot teddy bears that will sit in the corner of your room and collect dust. A teddy bear that will probably just be given to goodwill or stuffed in the attic. Just wait till your new little puppy gets way too excited and tears it to shreds. Now you have to clean up mountains of teddy bear stuffing and you have to take your puppy to the vet, yes indeed he ate around a pound of stuffing. I don't know why that would even sound romantic, spending \$50 on a dust collector.

Valentine's Day, the day of love and so many Clichés. There are so many more to watch for when getting that special someone something to show that you really care. Be smart out there ladies and gentleman. Make sure you aren't cuddling in sweat. Try to steer clear of the "get better" gifts. Or getting them a sweet box of a dentist appointment and a mouth full of cavities. That is my advice, take it from me and just be creative.

Connection: It Has A Lasting Importance



Dominique Lopez
—Section Editor—

Isn't it funny? The reality of how much we feel the need to be loved or at least have a connection with someone that is worth making us feel, well, known. As I have slowly taken the steps back into a life of accepting more people this has become extremely apparent in showing how much this connection is actually worth.

A friendship with someone you are close to seems to be all that we ever want to make us just feel a close connection, with the utmost amount of trust and love.

Sometimes it can even come down to the simple decision between friends you want to keep for the rest of your life or just allowing them to be someone you once knew in high school.

These needs in a friendship can simply come from the fact that we sometimes can't find the exact amount of closeness we need in order to feel the ultimate connection. This idea of closeness not only exists in the idea that we need to be close, but in the idea of socializing with one another every day. However, this also needs to exist in the idea of just be-

ing close to everyone, even if they aren't your closest friends.

Human beings not only need this closeness, but we seem to crave this ultimate feeling of connection. This can be with your friends, but this can also exist within your family. Ultimately the choice of finding that closeness with a friend will tie into the decision of whether or not you are close with your family, because that is the ultimate bond that defines all your relationships.

It is this closeness with someone who you actually feel a connection for that will define every decision you make in your life, when it comes to these close bonds of course. If there is a situation where you are constantly feeling knocked down by someone or don't even feel like you are close to anyone, this will affect every relationship you have and the want or need to put your all into a relationship will slowly dwindle away.

Not only has this bonding struggle existed in every relationship we have ever faced, but it is also these bonds that ruin every relationship that we try to achieve perfection in. This bond is what we ultimately need in order to make any other relationship work.

We see it every day, the idea that if we face the struggle of a really close bond, we face the problem of being able to influence that closeness in any other relationship.

This loss in bonds may cause a "fit" in the relationship that you thought was the closest bond to ever exist in your life. Sure, these "fits" hurt everyone in that relationship, and yes, they make the idea of being close to anyone move farther and farther away, but it may actually support this relationship more and bring you all closer together.

Here is the idea of that need of closeness again. The absolute need for that human connection that defines every relationship we have. This need is something that from my perspective will be something that will follow us around for the rest of our lives.

Even for those of us who only have a connection with our family because we are too nervous to go out, find friends, and be vulnerable. This is a bond that is following us around all the time. I know that I sure as heck couldn't live without it. For me it is a moment of if I don't have my friends to be there and support me, then I have my family, they are always in my corner and always supporting my ev-

ery decision. So I always know that they will be on my side.

As I said in the beginning, I am just barely allowing myself to enter this realm again. This isn't because I feel the need to have absolutely no friends in my life, but more because of the fear of vulnerability. Vulnerability and the fear of getting hurt or getting exposed.

I have friends but my number one friend would have to be my sister. She knows my every secret, and honestly could probably pick me out of a line just from one secret. That is my handle and my bond where I, once again, feel the ultimate bond of needing her closeness.

Now as I have continued to age and find more ultimate bonds, it seems to be most existent with my swim team. We have the great bond of all coming from different upbringings and that is honestly something that has brought us all so close together, or at least, I think.

Yes, we fight just like any other friend group but still, we have established this bond as our own. Something that no one can take away from us. Without us all being close together we know that we can't accomplish every goal that we have set out for ourselves. We have the support of

one another, and truth being told, we just have each other's support in any decision we make.

This connection however has shown the whole truth behind those I really want in my corner. It has also proven who is really there for us when it comes to deciding the best outcome for our future. All this and I realize how true this connection with my teammates has been and how reflective it is toward helping me decide who is there for me.

Connection, it seems to be the ultimate bond that holds us together, the bond that follows us around our whole life, and the bond that defines each and every relationship we have. This is how we determine who we want to have in our corner and the people we want to keep close to us after high school. A bond never lifting and making us all feel like we can be as vulnerable as we want without feeling like they will stab us in the back.

We fall back on this connection time and time again. It is the way that we can finally feel complete. This bond can exist within your family and most likely would translate to the friendships in your life. If something goes wrong in your family it will translate to every bond you try to have. This is the ultimate bond