

## Valentines for Trees

Trees do so much for us every day! Can you think of what some of those things are? Make a list with your family of all the things trees do for us. (See the bottom of this page for ideas\*). Here are some simple steps to create your own valentine for a tree. You can hang them on a tree in your yard or someplace where people can see it (doorway, etc) to help remind all of us to be thankful for trees.

- 1) Save a used cereal, pizza, or cracker box and cut out heart(s). Corrugated cardboard lasts longer, but parents will need to cut it out. Use a hole-punch to make a place to thread a piece of string through at the top. You can make other holes to thread colorful strings as well as decoration.
- 2) Someplace on the heart, write: "Thank you tree for....." Then write one thing like "Thank you for oxygen." "Thank you for food." Or "Thank you for furniture." And so on.
- 3) You can outline your words with a sharpie or go over them so they can be easily read.
- 4) Then, draw/color anything you like such as a dinosaur standing under a tree, or yourself swinging on a swing on a sturdy branch, or a rainbow with birds flying by a tree. Any image that illustrates something a tree does for us is wonderful.
- 5) Share your valentines with family and friends and on social media to spread the Gratitude.
- 6) And don't forget to thank a tree as you walk by! What are some things we can do to help trees? **Thank YOU!!**

\*Some things trees do for us: provide wood for homes and furniture, medicine, shelter for birds and other animals, beauty, food like fruits and nuts, beauty with leaves and flowers and their shapes, shade, erosion control, paper, cardboard, and many more! Visit [www.treesforhonolulu.org](http://www.treesforhonolulu.org) to learn more.

When your Valentine for your tree wears out, simply remove it and compost or recycle it! So, please try to use non-toxic crayons, paint, and glue, Mahalo! If you use cotton string and embroidery thread that does not contain plastic, you can leave it hanging from your tree for the birds to use to build nests! 😊

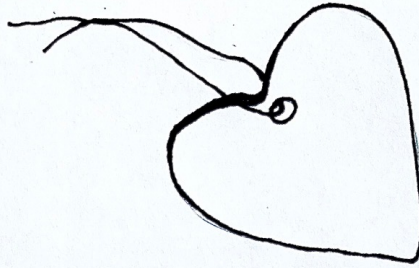
Writing extension: Perhaps you can write in your journal about making your Valentine for a tree!



Valentine for a Tree by Jaxon Belét, First Grade

Three Easy Steps to make your Valentine!

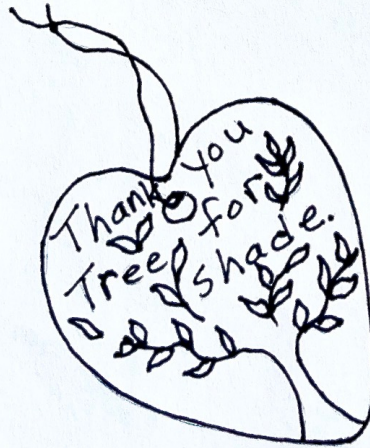
- 1) Cut out heart shape, make a hole, string through hole and tied.



- 2) Write your sentence of Gratitude to a tree.



- 3) Illustrate your heart with drawing and add color!



You can use corrugated cardboard and paint your heart with the writing on the back or front. Consider using [naturalearthpaint.com](http://naturalearthpaint.com).