



2009

Amelia Bedelia's First Valentine

Sandra L. Tidwell

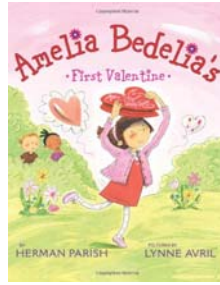
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Parish, Herman. *Amelia Bedelia's First Valentine*. Illustrated by Lynne Avril. Greenwillow, 2009. ISBN 9780061544583. \$16.99. 32 p.

Reviewer: Sandra L. Tidwell

Reading Level: Primary

Rating: Dependable

Genre: Picture book; Humorous stories;

Subject: Valentine's Day--Juvenile fiction; Schools--Juvenile fiction; Humorous stories--Juvenile fiction; Books--Reviews;

Ever wonder what Amelia Bedelia was like when she was a young girl? Herman Parish, nephew of Peggy Parish (author of the original Amelia Bedelia books) has written over a dozen books about young Amelia. This selection tells how Amelia prepares for and celebrates Valentine's Day. Amelia's mother, who likes to spend time playing cards with her friends, is not the run of the mill mother figure; but her scruffy-faced father seems personable and not that strange. Amelia? She takes literally everything her parents, teacher, and classmates say and everything she reads. She is frequently mixed up!

Valentine's Day is a great setting to share Amelia's funny interpretations: She puts a "bandage across the broken heart" and put "peanuts into the envelope with the squirrel." Arvil's colorful cartoon-like illustrations portray the cutest Amelia! She is innocent, thoughtful, and kind. This picture book story could be used to point out the meaning of catchy phrases, expressions, and puns.