

## The Best Valentine's Day Ever

By Bailey M.

Once upon a time in Greece, a 7-year-old girl named Olivia woke up. It was Valentine's Day! Olivia had made a charm bracelet for her best friend, Lily, and a love poem for her crush, Michael. Michael Smith was cute, kind, and athletic. His hair was always falling in his face, so he flipped it in a way. His favorite class was History, so Olivia tried to make Michael something formal and old fashioned. All she'd been able to think up was a poem. They were going to exchange gifts at circle time, and she had to get everyone in her class something, so she'd made a single Valentine's Day card and put it in the copy machine. When she got to school, Lily met her by the bus. "What'cha get Michael?" she asked. "You'll see," Olivia replied mysteriously. "Ooooh!" Lily exclaimed, "Get him somethin' fancy, Mrs. Smith!" "No," she replied. "Just...don't wanna tell you yet."

At circle time, Olivia waited patiently for Michael to open his envelope. When he finally did, he unexpectedly read it aloud to the class: "Roses are red, Violets are blue, I hope you like me, 'cause I love you, too." Suddenly the whole class burst out in laughter. All except Olivia, Lily, and Michael. Michael looked at Olivia, dumbstruck. Mrs. Heart gave the clapping signal to get quiet. "Olivia, come see me please." Olivia was nervous. Was she in trouble? "Olivia, follow me into the hall, please."

In the hall, Mrs. Heart transformed into a stunning, glowing young girl! "Child," she began, "It's normal for children to have crushes, but not many tell their crush about it. I think you just *might* have something real going on here." "A-are you...Aphrodite?!?!" Olivia asked. "Why of course, child!" she replied. Olivia was dumbstruck. A real-life Greek goddess had come to help her?! Unbelievable! "What should I do now, your grace?" she asked. "Well," she started, "I could tell my son, Cupid, to shoot Michael with a love dart, if you wanted." "No thank you, your grace," she said, "I'm okay." When they got back into the classroom Michael walked over to Olivia. "Ignore those bullies, Olivia," he started, "You know..." he paused for a moment, then said, "I think you're great." He gave Olivia a peck on the cheek. "See you tomorrow!" Olivia sighed and muttered under her breath, "Best Valentine's Day – EVER!"