

**Title:** Vlad's in Love

**Author:** Rory H. Mather

**Illustrator:** Jesus Lopez

**Publisher:** Larrikin House

**Target Age Group:** 3-8 years

**Key Curriculum Areas:** English, The Arts, Technologies and Social & Emotional Learning (SEL).

## SYNOPSIS

Everyone's favourite smelly-breathed vampire is back with another dilemma, but this time it's a matter of the heart. Peggy-Sue is new to monster school and Vlad is smitten. Frank and Keith are not much help as they are in love too! Will the crew find the courage to talk to their crushes? Romance is undead in this sweet and funny love story.

## THEMES

Friendship, love, empathy, relationships, humour, vampires, halloween, Valentine's Day.

## ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Rory lives in sunny South-East Queensland with his wife and two dogs. When he isn't writing a picture book he is usually thinking about writing one. This can mean that he stares into space quite a bit. He has been inspired by the work of Eric Carle, Dr Seuss and his fellow Larrikin - Sigi Cohen. Rory always brushes his teeth at least twice a day and three times if it's his Mum asking.



## ABOUT THE ILLUSTRATOR

Jesus Lopez was born in Madrid in 1975. He loved drawing as a child and now works illustrating children's books and textbooks for publishers all around the world.

Jesus lives in a town 50 km from Madrid with his wife and daughter. He is passionate about cinema, nature and painting.





## ACTIVITIES

### BEFORE READING

Questions to ask:

1. What do you think this story might be about?
2. Can you point out the following features of the book?  
(Spine, title, illustration, front page, back page, blurb, end papers).

### DURING READING

Recognising rhyming words - Ask students to laugh like a vampire and put up their hand when they notice the rhyming words on a selected page. (ACELA1439) (ACELT1585)

Recognising alliteration - Ask students to howl like a wolf and put up their hand when they notice any alliteration used in the story. (ACELA1439) (ACELT1585)

Clap the rhythm - On a selected page, students clap their hands along to the beat of the words. (ACELT1585)

Questions to ask:

1. What do you think will happen next?
2. What do you think about how Vlad is feeling about going to school?
3. How do you think Vlad will solve his problem?
4. Do you think Vlad has good friends? Why?
5. Have you ever had a crush on someone?
6. What does love mean to you?
7. Can you make any connections to the story so far?  
(ACELT1575) (ACELY1646) (ACELT1582) (ACPPS020) (ACPPS004)

### AFTER READING

Questions to ask:

1. What did you enjoy most about the story?
2. Who was your favourite character? Why?  
(ACELY1646) (ACELT1581)



## SUGGESTED ACTIVITIES:

**1. Cloze passages:** Choose a section of text and omit words. Students to fill in the blanks.

Curriculum Links: (ACELA1435) (ACELA1434) (ACELA1786) (ACELY1650) (ACELA1447) (ACELA1448)

**2. Character Profile:** Students draw the characters in the story and write their name underneath each picture.

Curriculum Links: (ACELT1783) (ACAMAM054) (ACAMAM056) (ACAVAM108) (ACTDEP007) (ACELA1586)

**3. Word Search:** Create a word search using words from the text.

Curriculum links: (ACAMAM054) (ACAMAM056) (ACELY1663) (ACELA1586) (ACTDEP007) (ACELY1653)

### 4. Retell Activities:

a. Create a table with the following headings: Setting (Where?) - Characters (Who?) - Problem (What?) - 1. In the beginning - 2. Next - 3. Then - 4. Finally - 5. Solution - 6. Lastly. Ask students to write or draw the order of events in the story.

b. Write short sentences which retell the story and jumble them up. Ask students to put them in the correct order.

Curriculum Links: (ACELT1578)

**5. Acrostic Poem:** Students choose a character from the story and write an acrostic poem.

Curriculum Links: (ACELY1651) (ACAMAM056)

**6. Write a blurb:** Explore the existing blurb on the back cover. Explain the purpose of the blurb to the students and ask them to create their own blurb.

Curriculum Links: (ACELY1651) (ACELA1586)

**7. Be my Valentine - Card:** Create a card for Valentine's Day. It could be for a friend, a carer or even a teacher.

Curriculum Links: (ACELT1578) (ACELT1580) (ACELT1831) (ACELY1651) (ACAMAM054) (ACAMAM056) (ACTDEP007) (ACTDEK004)

**8. Making connections - Who do I love? Who loves me?** Ask students to divide a page into two columns. In the first column students write a list of people who they love. In the other column, students write a list of people who they think love them.

Curriculum Links: (ACAMAM054) (ACELT1581) (ACELT1582)

**9. How do we show love?:** Discuss how some of the characters in the book show their love in different ways. Ask students to draw or write about how they show love to others.

Curriculum Links: (ACAMAM054) (ACELT1581) (ACELT1582)

### 10. Paper Flowers - Craft Activity

Students create a paper flower bunch or picture to give to someone they love, just Like Vlad did in the story.

Curriculum Links: (ACELT1578) (ACELT1580) (ACELT1831) (ACELY1651) (ACAMAM054) (ACAMAM056) (ACTDEP007) (ACTDEK004)



**FURTHER INFORMATION & RESOURCES:**

Rory H. Mather's Website: <https://roryhmather.com/>

Jesus Lopez' Website: <https://www.behance.net/jlopezpast33bf>




To order copies of this title visit: [www.larrikinhouse.com](http://www.larrikinhouse.com)

# How do we show love?

Draw some of the ways you show love to others



**VLAD'S IN LOVE**  
ISBN: 9781922503053  
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ORDER FROM: [larrikinhouse.com](http://larrikinhouse.com)

**WRITTEN BY:** Rory H. Mather  
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**ILLUSTRATED BY:** Jesus Lopez



# Paper Flowers

## Steps

1 Create a beautiful bunch of flowers for someone you love. Firstly, collect all the required materials then fold a piece of green paper in half lengthwise.

2 Using a ruler and pencil, measure and mark 1cm sections along the paper. With the help of an adult cut along your lines with scissors starting at the fold. Don't cut all the way through. Join the ends together with glue. Cut through some of the strips to make longer leaves.

3 Use flattened cupcake papers and pom poms to create flowers or cut out flower shapes out of coloured paper. Gift your flowers to someone special.

## Materials


Green paper  
Scissors  
Glue  
Ruler  
Pencil  
Cupcake papers  
Pom poms  
Mix of coloured paper



Image: Crafting Hours



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