




In celebration of Scotland's most famous bard, Bitty has hidden some mice throughout this issue. Can you find all 14? 

Robert Burns

January 25, 1759-July 1796

Robert Burns, known as Rabbie Burns, is considered Scotland's most famous poet. He was born into a poor farming family as the oldest of seven children. He worked many long hours helping his father farm their land and suffered from a lifelong stoop and delicate health. Burns was mostly educated by his father, but did briefly attend school before returning home to continue farming. Later in life he gave up farming and took up the work of creating lyrics for many old Scottish folk melodies, preserving some old songs and poetry using fragments of old Scottish songs, and creating some of his own. As a song writer and poet, he enjoyed a more affluent life, but was never wealthy. Shortly after having a tooth removed, he passed away, possibly from an unhealthy heart, at the age of 37.



Today, dinner parties are given in his honor on his birthday, January 25th. Among the festivities is the reading of one of his poems *Ode to a Haggis* as a toast to the uniquely Scottish creation.

To a Mouse

Robert Burns was a farmer and composed this poem after accidentally destroying a mouse's nest while he was out ploughing a field. A few excerpts of the poem have been provided in both the original form and in modern English.

Wee, sleekit, cow'rin, tim'rous beastie,

O, what a panic's in thy breastie!
Thou need na start awa sae hasty,
Wi' bickering brattle!
I wad be laith to rin an' chase thee,
Wi' murd'ring pattle!

I'm truly sorry man's dominion,
Has broken nature's social union,
An' justifies that ill opinion,
Which makes thee startle
At me, thy poor, earth-born companion,
An' fellow-mortal!

But, Mousie, thou art no thy lane,
In proving foresight may be vain;
The best-laid schemes o' mice an' men
Gang aft agley,
An' lea'e us nought but grief an' pain,
For promis'd joy!

Still thou art blest, compar'd wi' me
The present only toucheth thee:
But, Och! I backward cast my e'e,
On prospects drear!
An' forward, tho' I canna see,
I guess an' fear!

Wee, crafty, cowering, timid little beast,
Oh, what a panic is in your little breast!
You need not start away so hasty
With argumentative chatter!
I would be loath to run and chase you,
With murdering plough.

I'm truly sorry man's dominion
Has broken Nature's social union,
And justifies that ill opinion
Which makes you startle
At me, your poor, earth born companion
And fellow mortal!

But little Mouse, you are not alone,
In proving foresight may be vain:
The best laid schemes of mice and men
Go often askew,
And leave us nothing but grief and pain,
For promised joy!

Still you are blessed, compared with me!
The present only touches you:
But oh! I backward cast my eye,
On prospects dreary!
And forward, though I cannot see,
I guess and fear!

A Red, Red Rose

Burns wrote down the words to this old folk song and had it set to music in 1794. An excerpt of both the original verse and modern English is provided.

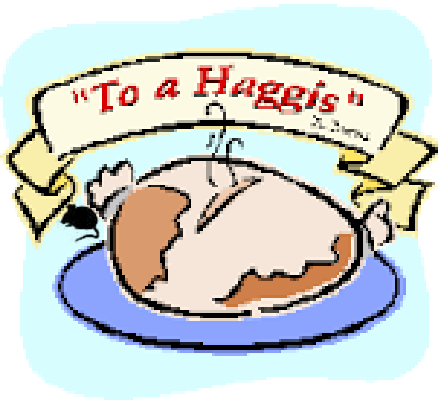
O my Luv'e's like a red, red rose,
That's newly sprung in June:
O my Luv'e's like the melodie,
That's sweetly play'd in tune.

As fair art thou, my bonie lass,
So deep in luv'e am I;
And I will luv'e thee still, my dear,
Till a' the seas gang dry.

O my Love's like a red, red rose,
That's newly sprung in June:
O my Love's like the melody,
That's sweetly played in tune.

As fair are you, my bonnie (pretty) lass (girl),
So deep in love am I;
And I will love you still, my dear,
Till all the seas go dry.





BURNS
 CRANACHAN
 HAGGIS
 MOUSE 🐭
 NEEPS
 POETRY
 ROSE
 SHORTBREAD
 TATTIES
 WHISKEY

S P O E T R Y D V S N S Y N O
 W E Y B M E R R H D E Z E M T
 A J I O U K V O H S E C K T N
 J W U T Y R R T I I P B S I W
 E S O R T T N G K V S D I N O
 E G O I B A G S D Y K G H D T
 R S M R V A T K P M X F W S X
 Q J E K H U Q S J X I Q Z K F
 C A M M L G T P N C E R K K U
 D N A H C A N A R C U R X N Z

Burns' Night began when close friends celebrated the Bard's life and career a few years after his death, but has since become a time to also celebrate Scottish culture. The meal with friends and family often includes reciting some of his poetry, sipping whisky, and enjoying a hearty meal with haggis, the "great chieftain o' the puddin'-race" as the centerpiece. Other tasty dishes include neeps (mashed turnips), tatties (mashed potatoes), cock-a-leekie soup (chicken and leek), cranachan (cream and raspberry and oat dessert), or tipsy laird (whiskey trifle), shortbread, and oatcakes.



Kid-friendly Cranachan

Cranachan is traditionally made with whiskey soaked and roasted oats and a wonderful soft cheese called Quark. Make and share these for a special Burns' Night celebration or a Valentine's Day treat with Scottish flair.

- 1/3 cup plain granola and 1/4 cup plain granola
- 2 cups of fresh raspberries
- 3 tablespoons honey
- 2 teaspoons sugar
- 2 cups of heavy whipping cream

Serves 6

Mash 1 1/2 cups of raspberries gently with a fork. Sprinkle the mash with the sugar and one tablespoon of honey and mix together. Set aside.

Whip the cream until thickened and then fold in the other two tablespoons of honey and the 1/3 cup of granola. 🐭

Place a spoonful or two of the raspberry mash into the bottom of a glass and then add a little bit of the cream. Sprinkle with granola. Repeat the layers. Finish by sprinkling the rest of the granola on top and add a lovely whole raspberry or two. Keep chilled or serve immediately.



www.practicallyfunctional.com

As a nod to Robert Burns' poem *To A Mouse* you can make and share these sweet little chocolate mice.

Supplies:

- 2 foil wrapped chocolates
- string
- non toxic tacky glue
- 2 tiny googly eyes
- gray, pink or red craft paper
- scissors

- Cut out little half circles for the ears.
- Using glue, stick ears to flat bottom of chocolate and then glue second chocolate back to back.
- Unwrap the very end of the foil wrapper and insert a couple of inches of string, twisting foil back around it to hold it in place.
- Glue eyes on.

Optional:

- yellow craft paper
- hole puncher
- black marker

- Optional: Cut out yellow squares and hole punch in various places, including off the edge of the square to look like cheese. Write a cheesy message and include with your sweet little creature.



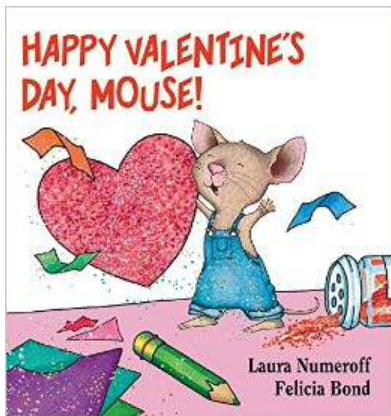
Celebrate Valentine's Day by making this adorable family tree from www.digsdigs.com

Did you find all of the hidden mice?

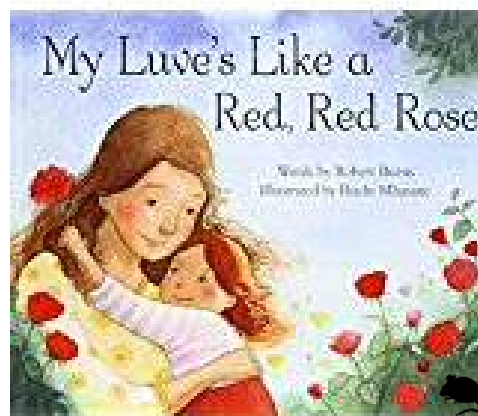


Book Nook

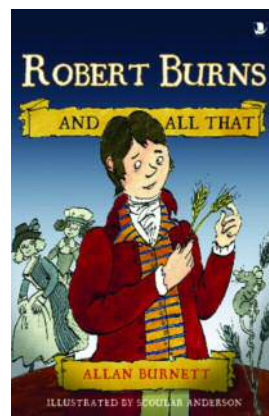
Tuck in with some sweet and silly books.



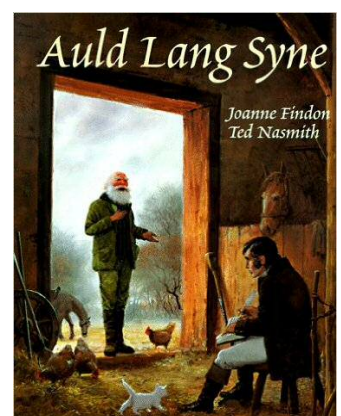
Happy Valentine's Day, Mouse!
by Laura Numeroff
Ages 4-8



My Luve's Like a Red, Red Rose
Poem illustrated by Ruchi Mhasane
All ages



Robert Burns and All That (Kindle Edition)
by Allan Burnett
Ages 7-9



Auld Lang Syne: The Story of Robert Burns
by Joanne Findon
Ages 6+