

Can You Picture This?

Use a photo to stimulate a great discussion activity and even spark a short story or creative writing project.

Preparation & How-To's

1. Print copies of the [picture](#) to show people. Or [display picture on a widescreen TV](#).
2. Print a copy of some [discussion starters](#) to get the conversation going.

For a creative storytelling program

Start simple:

- Ask participants to name the people in the photo. If they're getting stuck, cue people by saying something like, "What's a woman's name that starts with an L?"
- Continue to ask simple background questions:
 - Where do you think this is taking place?
 - What country, state, or city do you think this is in?
 - Do you think it's an urban or rural location?
 - How old are the people?
 - Are the people in the picture family, friends, or someone they just met?
- As people speak out, write down their ideas.

Move into a story:

- Begin to ask more complex questions:
 - "Do you think this is a special day or a regular weekday?"
 - "What do you think they are talking about?"
 - "What do you think happened before the photo was taken?"
 - "What emotions are the people feeling?"
 - "Is there anything in the image that seems unusual or out of place?"
 - "What might the people in the picture do next?"
- If no one answers, give a few options to choose from.
- Keep jotting down answers and start to turn them into a short story.
- Read the story aloud on occasion as you are working on it with the group and read the final story before the activity ends.

Can You Picture This?

Discussion Starters



1. How many people do you see in the picture: six people or 10 people?

Answer: 10 people

2. Are there the same number of women as there are men?

Answer: Yes, five women and five men

3. What would you say about the clothes everyone is wearing? Are they casual or dressy?

Answer: Dressy. The men are wearing suits and ties, and the women's clothes are fancy with high-heeled shoes.

4. What do the outfits the women are wearing all have in common?

Answer: They are all wearing skirts and blouses.

5. What are the men holding in their hands?

Answer: They are each holding a red rose.

6. How many of the men are wearing glasses: five or three?

Answer: Three

7. Do any of the women look younger than the others?

Answer: Yes, some appear younger. The woman on the far left and the woman second from the right both look younger than the rest of the group. All the women are quite lovely, don't you think?

8. Where do you think this picture could be taking place?

Possible answers: At a church dance, at a Valentine's Day party, at a retirement community get together, etc. Take your pick and tell a story about the event.

9. What holiday do you usually associate red roses with: Groundhog Day or Valentine's Day?

Answer: Valentine's Day. The holiday is celebrated on February 14. It is the most popular flower sold on that day.

10. Do the women look happy to see the men?

Answer: Yes. They all have smiles on their faces. What do you think some of the men might say as they present the woman of their choice with a rose?

11. After the men present the flowers, what do you think will happen next?

Answer: Most likely they ask the women to dance. Hopefully they don't just walk away.

12. What kind of dance do you think it most likely will be?

A. Slow dance

B. Fast dance

C. The twist

Answer: A. Slow dance. Most likely the first dance would be slow and easy, not a fast dance like the jitterbug or the twist. Raise your hand if you have ever danced the twist!

13. What are some gifts you would prefer to get on Valentine's Day?

Possible answers: Flowers, candy, dinner at a restaurant, jewelry, etc. Describe why you chose what you did.

14. What was the most special Valentine's Day you have ever had? Who were you with, and what did you do?

15. Look at the picture and imagine which man will pair up with each woman. Who will each man give his rose to? And why did you choose them for each other?

Valentine's Day Trivia

- In the 1300s, Valentine's Day officially became a holiday associated with love and romance. It was based on the common belief in France and England that the mating season for birds commenced on February 14.
- In the late 17th century, giving flowers on Valentine's Day became a popular custom. It was especially popular during the Victorian Era, with red roses serving as the symbol for deep love.
- The most expensive gift to give on Valentine's Day is jewelry followed by an evening out and then clothing, candy, and flowers.
- It is estimated that around 85 percent of the Valentine's Day cards purchased are bought by women.
- It's not just people who receive love on Valentine's Day—their pets do, too. In 2020, around 27.6 million American households gave their dogs gifts and 17.1 million gave gifts to their cats.



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