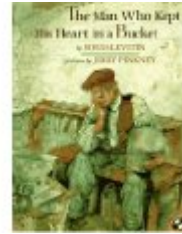
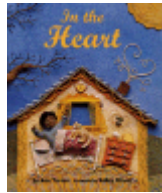
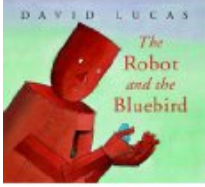


## ♥ Stories From the Heart

*These stories could be shared for a Valentine's storytime or anytime you want to share the love between friends, found in a home, or in a generous spirit...*



### **Titles:**

*The Robot and the Bluebird* by David Lucas

*My Mama Had a Dancing Heart* by Libba Moore Gray

*In the Heart* by Ann Turner

*Doña Flor* by Pat Mora

*The Man Who Kept His Heart in a Bucket* by Sonia Levitin

*Cold Paws Warm Heart* by Madeleine Floyd



### **Extensions:**

A bluebird would be a welcome visitor! I love this one from Folkmanis. [www.folkmanis.com](http://www.folkmanis.com).

### **Easy Craft:**

Pop-up Hearts, Giant Hearts, or Hand Tracings with Hearts drawn in them would all be lovely crafts for this storytime. For pop-up hearts, use multi-colored strips of paper folded over each other to create a little spring. Glue ends together. Glue paper heart to each end. Spring! For giant hearts, create a heart for kids to trace on your biggest paper – newsprint, wrapping paper, paper bags. Cut out, write the name of a book or a friend they love on the heart and decorate. For the heart in hand. Have parents trace their kids hands. Hole punch a heart out of the palm with specialty heart punch.

### **Simple Play:**

Borrow the parachute, and feel the wind billow and blow freezing the little bluebird, waking the grumpy wind in *Doña Flor*, or touching everyone *in the heart*. For added fun toss paper hearts onto the parachute and scatter them in the wind the kids flutter across the chute.

### **Poetry Corner:**

Share *Song/Birds* from Jane Yolen's "[Birdwatch: a book of poetry](#)," to play the song in robot's heart: "but now my heart is singing."

### **Early Literacy Skills**

**Language and vocabulary:** *dancing, singing*: how does a heart dance or sing? Can they describe this feeling in their own words?



**Phonological Awareness:** ticktock and other sound words abound in these stories. Can they identify the other words that are singing?

**Letter knowledge:** Feature H and F for different hearts and friends.

**Print Awareness:** **The cover of Doña Flor** has big letters to match her big heart. It also uses the entilde accent mark. This is a great time to introduce other languages and alphabets.

**Narrative Skills:** Many listeners will want to tell of their bluebirds, pumitos, Mamas and other ways they know love. This would be a great prompt for sharing stories at home.

**Print Motivation:** *heart* is a fun word to focus on as a word that means love.

Ask kids to read this:  +  + **U**