

# Gifts from the Heart: Easy Valentines Day crafts

**Keira Funes-Torres**  
Format Editor

I never truly considered myself as an artistic or creative person, but there is something relaxing about spending time with yourself or others creating something that has a special meaning only to you. These crafts are easy for someone who wishes to begin their creation journey but can be altered for more advanced crafters. These may be kept for memories or quick gifts for Valentines Day to give to your significant other.

## Dotted Heart Painting

### Materials:

- 8x10 inch canvas
- Any thick scrap of paper (example: construction paper, or cardstock paper)
- Red, pink, and white acrylic paint
- Paint palette or plastic plate
- Q-Tips for each color
- Scissors

### Instructions

- Grab your scrap sheet of paper. Fold and cut out a heart shape to the desired size that will be able to fit onto your canvas. Place paper in the middle of the canvas.
- Pour each color onto the painting plate. Starting with the darkest colors, use the tip of one Q-tip and dip gently into paint and lightly press onto canvas around all edges of the heart towards the edge of canvas.

Continue with the rest of your lighter colors with a new Q-tip each time.

- With each press onto canvas, change the amount of pressure to get various textured dots on canvas.
- Allow all dots to completely dry. Once dry, gently remove the heart and see the finished product.
- Optional: If painting with a significant other, write each name in the heart with the date to keep for memories.

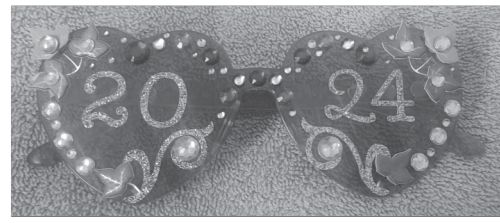
## Memorable Themed Eyeglasses

### Needed Materials:

- Colored glasses of preferred color and shape
- Adhesive stickers
- Sticker letters and numbers

### Instructions:

- Pick a theme, color and shape of eyeglasses that fits your style. Browse through your creativity, Pinterest, or Google to find a theme that fits your personality. For example, your favorite color with graduating year, summer beach, flowers or sports could all work well.
- Find stickers that fit your theme at various arts and crafts stores such as Michaels, Joann, or Hobby Lobby. If you are looking for some affordable options, try stores like Walmart, Target and Dollar Tree.
- This craft relies on your own imagination



and personality to create a cherished combination of pictures and memories.

## Lollipop Flower Bouquet

### Needed Materials:

- Three to five lollipops
- One sheet each of red, pink and green construction paper
- Clear tape or glue stick
- Scissors
- Pen or pencil

### Instructions:

- Cut the red and pink construction paper into 5-inch squares. Fold each square in half then on each color cut two small hearts and two bigger hearts. For each heart, cut a tiny part off of the bottom of the hearts in order to allow the lollipops to also act as a flower stem when finished.
- In alternating colors, place the four smaller hearts slightly overlapping the sides and place a tiny piece of clear tape on the outside of the petal circle to connect them together. Once completed, add a bigger heart to the outside of the petals



using clear tape on each side of the heart. Repeat for each big heart.

- Using the green construction paper, cut out five leaves to your desired shape and size. Take a pen or pencil, slightly curl each leaf by wrapping the leaf around the pen and gently release to not mess up the curl. Then tape the leaves with the curl facing away from the rose. Tape or glue the leaves to the petals.
- Extra Tip: Gently push the heart petals to follow the direction of the leaves to have more shape in the petals.
- Finally, place the lollipops one by one through the hole through the petals. The number of lollipops depends on the final size of your rose.
- Optional: Tie a ribbon on the bottom of the petals to connect the lollipops together then gift them to any friend, family, or to yourself so that all can enjoy the lovely candy.

# Truth is better than fiction

## Rooster staff creates list of recommended non-fiction books

**Colin Wishneski**  
News Editor

The following is a comprehensive list of nonfiction books that Rooster staff members found interesting. Nonfiction books can be a commitment, but they allow us to learn about our world in ways that school doesn't always allow. This can be through learning about history that contextualizes the world we live in, current events that inspire us to make change, and memoirs that teach us about life. All in all, nonfiction books let us take charge of what we want to learn about, especially when isn't seen to have educational value.

## Finding Thalhimers by Elizabeth Thalhimer Smartt

**Amber Bryant, Advisor**

Chances are you've never heard of Thalhimers, the now-defunct, Richmond, Virginia-based chain of department stores that once had a location in Hanes Mall in the 1980s and 1990s. This book details Wake Forest University alum Elizabeth Thalhimer Smartt's quest to find "the first Thalhimer," her ancestor who first came to America and started the namesake company.

There is so much to love about this book, from the history of how a one-room dry goods shop grew to 26 locations catering to high-end shoppers, to the depiction of family loyalty and inevitable conflict that came with managing "The Store." Smartt effectively blends her own story with those of her ancestors in a way that makes you come away from the book feeling as if you truly know the people you've just read about. This is a quicker read than most and very accessible to all levels of readers. Whether you're a history lover, shopping enthusiast, genealogy buff or mystery fan, "Finding Thalhimers" will resonate with you and leave you wondering about your own family stories that are waiting to be retold.



## American Prometheus: The Triumph and Tragedy of J. Robert Oppenheimer by Kai Bird and Martin Sherwin

**Colin Wishneski, Senior, News Editor**

"American Prometheus" is a biography of J. Robert Oppenheimer, the theoretical physicist and creator of the atomic bomb who was at the center of last year's "Barbenheimer" phenomenon. The film's screenplay was based off of this novel, and it was interesting to see all of the parallels. The novel is set in five parts: The first part explains Oppenheimer's childhood and education at Harvard, Cambridge, and Gottingen. The second tells of his work teaching at UC Berkeley, his affiliation with leftist causes and his affair with Jean Tatlock (played by Florence Pugh in the 2023 film). The third part goes into the Manhattan project, a race by American scientists to beat the Nazis and Soviets to build an atomic bomb, which Oppenheimer led and eventually succeeded at. The fourth part details the fallout of the atom bomb test and the World War 2. The fifth and final part tells of Oppenheimer's security hearing regarding his Communist past.

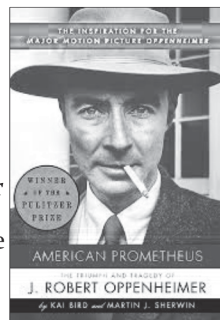
"American Prometheus" is an important read because it was easy to get caught up in the drama of last year's movie. We need to know Oppenheimer's story because he created the world we live in today, for better or worse.

## Everything I Know About Love

**by Dolly Alderton**

**Makena Moore, Senior, Co-Editor in Chief**

Dolly Alderton's memoir, "Everything I Know About Love," was the first autobiography I willingly picked up from a shelf for pleasure instead of a school



report. Written for a young adult audience, the memoir reflects on experiencing love and life for the first time, taking a brutally honest approach that combines humor with heartbreak.

With clever anecdotes, email correspondences, lists and recipes, Alderton doesn't hold back on the bad; she details it and explains how she grew from it. Alderton narrates social situations in a vivid, relatable way, connecting the reader to what she is going through.

From bad dates to friendships to work experiences and everything in between, Alderton's writing is reflective and genuine. She explains that even though your experiences might not make sense in the moment, they will one day, and above all, it's your life to live, so live it.

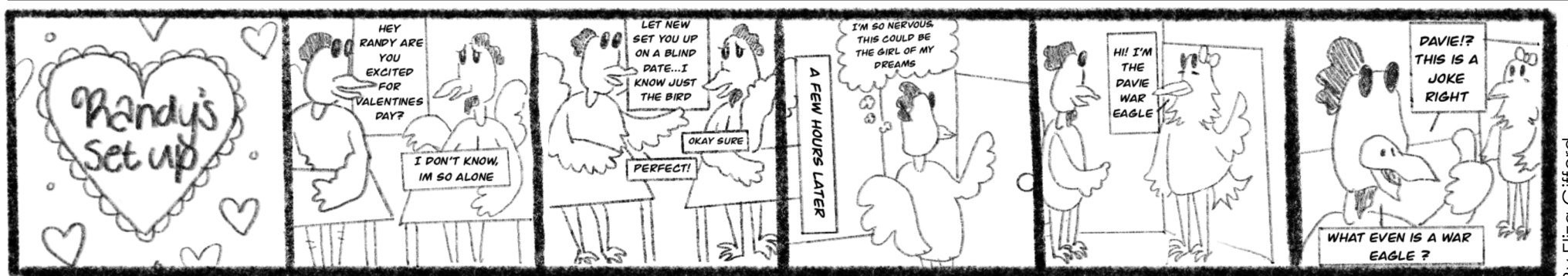
## Never Again: A New Generation Draws the Line

**by Lauren Hogg and David Hogg**

**Ilia Young, Senior, Co-Editor in Chief**

"Never Again" is a recollection of the Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School shooting on Feb. 14, 2018. Two witnesses delve into their experience and how their lives have changed since the tragedy. The Hogg siblings founded the March for Our Lives organization to advocate for young political voices to speak out, especially regarding violence in schools.

Personally, this book was the first nonfiction book I read that I connected with. "Never Again" truly calls all readers to action and empowers the youth to use their voice. This non-intimidating read at only 120 pages allows young audiences to easily connect and realize the experiences of others without the pressure of a traditional non-fiction book.



By Eliza Gifford