

# The love thing - who needs it?

Love makes the world go around. Love is a wonderful thing. All you need is love. Says who? Why should love be so important?

Sure, love is nice. It's an important emotion in everyone's life. It means a lot to have someone who cares about you. However, love often gets more than a little overrated. There seems to be an attitude that if you don't have a boyfriend or girlfriend you are not a worthy person. People tend to assume if you're single, you can't possibly be happy. Believe it or not, love is not the only thing in the world.

There are many perfectly content non-suicidal people around without boyfriends or girlfriends. Not that there's anything wrong with having a boyfriend or girlfriend. They can certainly brighten up your life a little and make your weekend a little more exciting, but there is no reason why you can't be happy without one.

There are many more things in the world. Think of the great feeling after your baseball team wins a tournament or you get offered that part-time job you wanted.

## Who loves you?

The love in someone's life doesn't have to come from a boyfriend or girlfriend either. There are many different kinds of love, not just romantic love that is considered so important. People love their parents, they love their brothers and sisters and they love their friends. If someone doesn't have a boyfriend or girlfriend, it doesn't mean that nobody cares about them. People can be surrounded by love without being romantically attached.

What is love anyway? The dictionary says it is "deep affection or fondness for someone." The media seems to think it's everything. Try listening to the radio. Even the few songs that aren't based on love (or a lack of it), have it in there somewhere. When was the last time you went to a movie that didn't have a love theme as an important component.

Everywhere on TV there's a devastatingly handsome man whispering I love you to some gorgeous woman with a mane of perfectly tousled hair. Definitions of love are thrown at us from all directions.

Plenty of couples claim to be in love. They probably are, by their definition. It's very easy to convince yourself that you're in love, especially when someone tells you that he loves you. It's not difficult to 'love' someone when they tell you that you're beautiful or handsome and smart and they laugh at all your stupid jokes.

Somehow males and females can both convince themselves that they're in love. Even when the one they supposedly adore makes them angry or depressed or treats them in a way that they wouldn't take from the counter person at Harvey's. Somehow you can convince yourself it's okay because, this person 'loves' you.

Most of us were pretty happy kids until this love thing came along. I guess it was around Grade 6 or so

## YOUTH PERSPECTIVE

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that it began.

You all remember them, the Grade 6 relationships. Some guy or girl you never really liked too much or never seen really met before, asks you out. All of a sudden you've got a boyfriend/girlfriend. You are complete. So what if you never talk to him/her or worse yet, you do talk to him/her and you still don't like him/her to much? You are complete.

As you get older, the relationships get a little more serious. By the time you get to high school the current boyfriend/girlfriend may even be someone you like. It's possible you may even feel a 'deep affection or fondness'. A few of you could even really, truly be in 'love'.

Those precious few who do know the definition of love are thought to be the lucky ones. In a way they are, but that doesn't mean that all of us who don't know should be slitting our wrists. It also doesn't mean that we are missing out or unhappy.

Being single is nothing to be ashamed of. It may even be something to be proud of.

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