

**Crush**

*MARGIE is a little girl with a big crush on one of her classmates. Here she tells a friend why she likes Marcus so much.*

**MARGIE:** Can you see him? He's over there. There. Next to Jacqueline. – Jacqueline Mason. My best friend. – No! Don't stare at him! He'll see you're looking.

*(She gets sweets out of her pocket)*

Do you want a sweet? He gave them to me yesterday, but I'll let you have one. Just one. – No! One! – Put that one back. I saw you. – I'm going to keep at least one of them for ever. As a keepsake.

*(She puts the sweets back in her pocket)*

I love Marcus Jordaine. He's so lovely. He has very straight teeth – except for that gap at the front. But his second teeth will be coming in very soon, so he won't look like a letter-box any more. And he's got ever such pretty hair – all curly like a mop.

*(She gets out a Valentine's card and shows it to the audience)*

I also love him because he's kind. Look. He gave me this. We had to make them in class yesterday and I was having trouble sticking the hearts on, so he helped me. When we'd finished them, the teacher said we could either take them home or give them to someone in the class that we liked. Horrible Ian Turton gave his to Samantha Fellows, saying she ought to keep it as it was prettier than she was. But she got him back at playtime. She rubbed about six Jammie Dodgers into his hair. The teacher went mad at both of them.

*(She looks lovingly at the card)*

But Marcus just walked up to me with his card – in front of the whole class – and said I was very nice and he wanted me to have his card. The class all giggled – but I didn't care. – I'm putting it away now in case it rains. I don't want it getting smudged.

*(She puts card away)*

*by Ann Cartwright*