

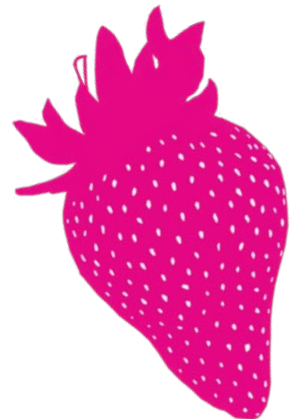
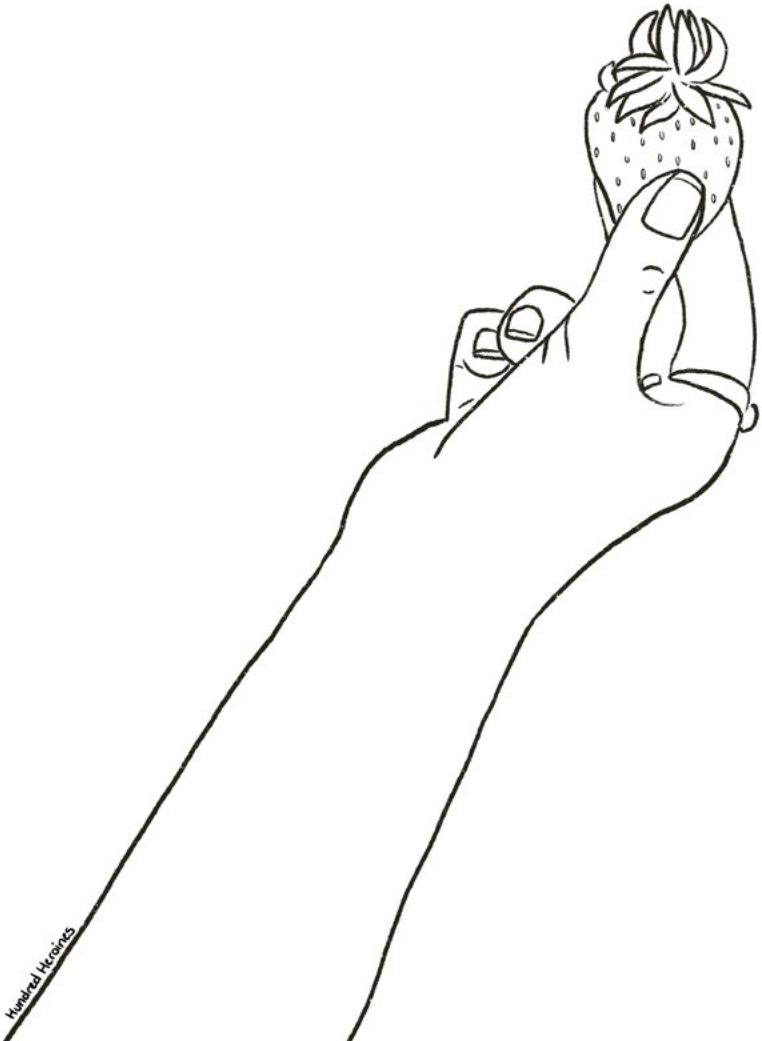
Strawberries

Myths & Legends

BE INSPIRED

Respond to photography

with a piece of creative writing



What's ~~love~~ strawberries got to do with it?

The strawberry has been exploited by many a storyteller whose tale is one of love. Some even claim that by sharing this juicy, heart-shaped berry with someone, you can cause them to fall in love with you. We have our doubts about that.

But we have no doubts about falling in love

with the Cherokee legend about the first strawberry



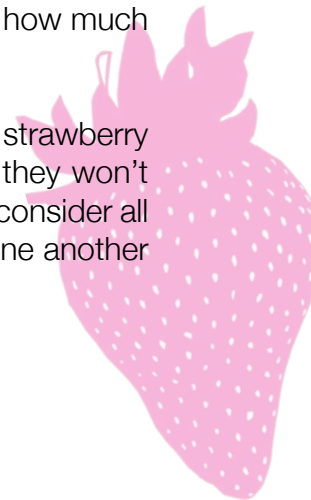
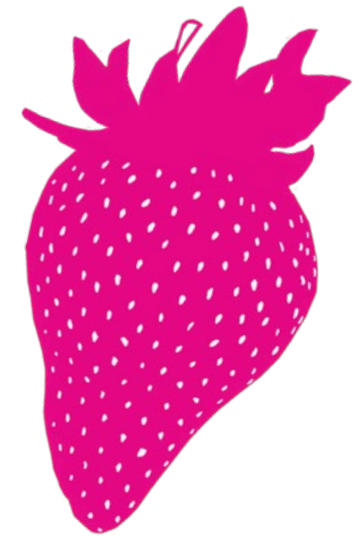
Cherokee Legend of the First Strawberry

Set at the dawn of time we meet first man and first woman. They are blissfully in love. Until real life happens. Following a heated argument about household chores, first woman decides to walk out the door! She leaves at the break of day whilst he is asleep with no intentions of coming back. He awakens to find her gone but assumes she will return. After some time, realising she is not coming back, he sets off to look for her. But she is long gone.

The sun, looking down on the earth, notices the separated lovers. First man admits to the sun that he misses his beloved, is no longer angry and wants her to come home. Taking pity on him, the sun tries to help by making a huckleberry bush appear in first woman's path to get her attention. She is so intent on going forward and not looking back, she doesn't even notice it. The sun tries again with a clump of blackberries. Again, she walks on by. The sun realises that this situation needs something entirely new; something so vivid, so fragrant, and so delicious, that even the first woman cannot fail to take notice despite her resolute, unhappy mood.

The sun blesses the ground once more with its rays, and the first patch of strawberries spreads over the ground. Their sweet scent fills the woman's senses and her mood lightens. She notices the bright red fruit hiding beneath the leaves and cannot resist eating one. Tasting it, she begins to remember the happiness she shared with her love. She looks at the half eaten strawberry in her hand and she sees a bright red heart. Hers melts. She sits for a while, eating more strawberries and wondering what to do. But, by the time she has polished off another handful, first man has caught up with her and sits down quietly, smiling. She gives him a strawberry to eat. Reunited over a bush of strawberries, they both realise how much they care for one another.

They walk home together, taking a few strawberry plants with them to plant at home so they won't forget this lesson: do nothing in haste, consider all things thoroughly and always forgive one another for your faults.





We're wondering what new stories could be inspired by **strawberries?**



A photograph might stir the imagination...



Image © Ellie McDonogh

This image by photography student Ellie McDonogh, part of our K+C Festival student gallery, is very suggestive in its simplicity. She creates an almost blank canvas for our imaginations.

It's hard not to get a sense of temptation when you see the arm outstretched, extending its offering into this space. The shadow cast by the fruit-bearing hand might symbolise an ominous warning, adding an element of darkness to the offering. On the other hand, by virtue of the harshly-lit background, this vibrant red berry stands out, perhaps hinting at the power of giving or love: a beacon in this stark backdrop.

If we take our attention to the green leaves, it's interesting to note how imperfectly they are arranged. They almost look thorny. Notice how their shape looks different in the shadow. Could there be a suggestion here that love changes, or things are not what they at first seem? Or are the leaves longingly stretching outwards, yearning to be plucked out of the giver's hands? Yearning to be eaten.

What is your imagination telling you?

What do you read into this piece?

What's the story behind the image?

If this photograph were a scene in a love story, what happened before this moment? What led to it? And what happens afterwards?

Submit your love story

We invite you to take inspiration from this photograph and write a modern-day love story. Writers wishing their work to be featured on our platform as part of the K+C Festival, please submit your pieces.

To submit (and see read our terms and conditions) go to

our website <https://tinyurl.com/HHPOM>

or scan the QR Code



If you prefer flashier fiction, head over to our twitter feed @hundredheroines and have a go at tweeting a six-word love story directly on our feed!



Image © Ellie McDonogh

The background of the entire page is a repeating pattern of pink strawberries. Each strawberry is a solid pink color with small white dots representing seeds and a green leafy top. They are arranged in a grid-like pattern across the white background.

HUNDRED⁺ HEROINES₊

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