

- PROFESSOR EINSTEIN:** A love letter. You got a love letter. Hahahahaha!
- MS. SCHLAU:** Give it back immediately. How dare you.
- PROFESSOR EINSTEIN:** Someone even drew a bunch of hearts on it. Will you answer it?
- MS. SCHLAU:** Of course not!
- PROFESSOR EINSTEIN:** Ms. Schlau? Ms. Schlau? I'm sorry. I didn't mean to irritate you. Ah, when I was young and made my first wonderful scientific discoveries, I received so many love letters. Besides, I'm very grateful to you. After all, this letter inspired you to research the origins of this well-known heart symbol. In a way, this is your first significant research project, Ms. Schlau. I'm sure the students will be delighted to hear your report.
- MS. SCHLAU:** Indeed, Professor - I took this "silly" love letter as an occasion to find out together with Christoph what meaning this heart symbol actually has and where it originated. Dear students, are you ready for this lecture? Where is JOWO? I need him now.
- PROFESSOR EINSTEIN:** JOWO?
- MS. SCHLAU:** JOWOOOOO? You're shaking. Are you cold? Then everything's good. Start the film!
- The shape that we recognize as a **heart (HERZ)** has existed for over three and a half thousand years. These gold pieces look exactly the same as we **draw (MALEN)** hearts today. They were a princess's bridal jewelry. But the Greeks would never have thought to call this **shape (FORM)** a heart. On this Greek vase, the shape is a **leaf (BLATT)**. A leaf with a stem. This is how the Greeks drew grape leaves as in this painting with the god Dionysus. What you're looking at here is not hearts but leaves. In this painting you can see that the leaf had a meaning. When you received this kind of leaf, it was called a "Symbolon". That's the origin of the word "**symbol (SYMBOL)**". A symbol is an icon that means something.
- PROFESSOR EINSTEIN:** But why an ivy leaf? And what do these leaves mean?
- MS. SCHLAU:** Well, Professor, the scientists think that this represents an ivy leaf rather than a grape leaf, which stood for immortality and **love (LIEBE)** that outlasts death. Professor Dietz has found many gravestones with ivy leaves on them. It looks exactly like the fresh young leaf and has the typical round form and is tapered at the bottom.

- PROFESSOR EINSTEIN:** But why an ivy leaf? Tell me, Ms. Schlau!
- MS. SCHLAU:** Well, the Greeks knew that ivy plants could get ancient – up to 400 years! For people then, that was half an eternity. And they noticed that ivy leaves stay green even in the winter, when all other **plants (PFLANZE)** and trees have lost their leaves. That’s why some people call the plants “evergreen”. That was a fitting image for a love that should last forever.
- PROFESSOR EINSTEIN:** But just how did this leaf shape become associated with the real hearts in our chests?
- MS. SCHLAU:** You can find the answer in the Middle Ages, Professor Dietz says. Back then, books were written and painted by hand. Decorations were often old motifs such as the leaf forms of the Greeks and Romans. This tree has leaves in green and **red (ROT)** colors. Red was the color of **life (LEBEN)** and love. So at some point they began painting the leaf only red. It was also a symbol of courage and fortitude, as in this image of two knights fighting. People nowadays even sometimes still say a courageous person is “stout-hearted”. Here on this tapestry from the Middle Ages you can see how a nobleman expresses his love to his beloved by pointing to his heart that beats in his chest. Here is where the leaf clearly becomes a heart. And that’s how the leaf shape ended up in our **body (KÖRPER)** where our heart is and became the symbol for love.
- PROFESSOR EINSTEIN:** Congratulations, Ms. Schlau. That was a wonderful lecture.
- MS. SCHLAU:** Thank you. You are really a magnificent scientific professor.
- PROFESSOR EINSTEIN:** What? What is that? What’s rattling there? Who’s printing something during the lecture? That is so disturbing. Ugh, it’s another love letter for you, Ms. Schlau. Wait. The only one who’s connected to this printer is me and... JOWO?!
- MS. SCHLAU:** JOWO, you wrote this for me..? Oh, how kind.
- PROFESSOR EINSTEIN:** Alright, students, let’s start with the test and speaking exercises so that your scientific careers can pick up speed. Or are you also lovesick? Hahahahaha!