**4. Unpacking The Big Idea With Verbal Language**

(a) Definition of identity:

noun, plural **identities.**

1.the state or fact of remaining the same one or ones, as under varying aspects or conditions:2.the condition of being oneself or itself, and not another:3.condition or character as to who a person or what a thing is4.the state or fact of being the same one as described.

5.the sense of self, providing sameness and continuity in personality over time and sometimes disturbed in mental illnesses, as schizophrenia.6.exact likeness in nature or qualities:7.an instance or point of sameness or likeness

British Dictionary definitions for identity

noun (**pl**) **-ties**

1.the state of having unique identifying characteristics held by no other person or thing

2.the individual characteristics by which a person or thing is recognized

3.*Also called* **numerical identity.** the property of being one and the same individual

identity in Medicine

*n.*

* The set of behavioral or personal characteristics by which an individual is recognizable as a member of a group.
* The distinct personality of an individual regarded as a persisting entity; individuality.

(b) Synonyms

individuality, personality, distinctiveness, uniqueness, oneness, particularity, self, singleness, singularity, status, circumstances, coherence, identification, existence, integrity, name.

(c) Antonyms

opposition, dissimilarity, difference, contrast, discrepancy, variation, variety, disagreement, divergence, alteration, inconsistency, individuality, inequality, unlikeness.

(d) Social issues:

Gender identity, socioeconomic status, bicultural identity, social media and bullying, identity theft, racism, religion.

(e) Phrases/Quotes:

“You are what you eat.”

“Identity is something that you are constantly earning. It is not just who you are. It is a process that you must be active in. It’s not just parroting your parents or the thoughts of your learned teachers. It is now more than ever about understanding yourself so you can become yourself.” Joss Whedon

“Identity cannot be found or fabricated but emerges from within when one has the courage to let go.” Doug Cooper

“You don’t have a soul. You are a Soul. You have a body.” C.S. Lewis

“Don’t let your struggle become your identity.”

“To be nobody but yourself in world which is doing its best, night and day, to make you everybody else means to fight the hardest battle which any human being can fight, and never stop fighting.” E.E. Cummings

(f) Examples of Identity in the world around us:

A Bad Case of Stripes by David Shannon

Charlotte’s Web by E.B. White

The movie Soul Surfer

The movie Mulan

Masks by Shel Silverstein

She had blue skin,

And so did he.

He kept it hid

And so did she.

They searched for blue

Their whole life through,

Then passed right by-

And never knew.

Alice in Wonderland by Lewis Carroll

The movie How The Grinch Stole Christmas with Jim Carrey

Plastic surgery ads

Cosmetic Ads

(g) 5 Examples:

1) The book A Bad Case of Stripes by David Shannon is a really nice children’s book discussing why it’s okay to be ourselves. The story is visually very entertaining as well as the story flows nicely and keeps young children interested. This story will help with students understanding the self portrait they will create because we will use colors and line to make our artwork. Though the artwork will be like what artist Paul Klee did. I hope this book can also help students to get over the fear of what they want to reveal in their own identity so they can be free to create what truly makes them who they are.

2) The poem by Shel Silverstein is a very nice little way to address being different without being too involved or lengthy. It has a nice message about being ourselves and since I want student to write their own poem I can use this as an example but also keep aligned to my Unit. I really want students to feel they can share themselves with me and the class through their written work. We can talk about how we are each different but we may have similarities we didn’t even know about because we don’t feel the need to share who we really are with others.

3) I also think the quote by E.E. Cummings is a really nice example that places emphasis on being true to who we are and that everyday we must work on accepting ourselves. This quote talks about how being ourselves isn’t taking the easy way out but that’s okay! Sometimes we can’t really learn about ourselves unless we work hard and take chances. This might be a quote I put on the whiteboard so that students could see it while we work on our unit.

4) The quote we have all heard about “You are what you eat” could make an interesting discussion for the class. It could raise questions about whether or not this is true and how does this create assumptions and stereotypes on people that may not seem to be like us. Most young students have a tendency to be picky so this might be a fun way to ask children if they eat a lot of chicken nuggets does that make them a chicken nugget? Hopefully opening students eyes to what it means label other people and how does it make them feel?

5) I feel that cosmetic ads are a good example of the big idea of identity. These ads are supposed to make us look “better” and can be a way to mask our identity. Students could look to these ads to contemplate identity in our society today. They could also look at how the idea of beauty has changed over the years and in other cultures. This could make a good discussion on how much emphasis does society place on our identity having to do with our looks.