3**. Introduction To The Unit(a)**

**3. Introduction To The Unit (b)**

**Rational for the Unit:**

In this unit I will teach identity through several activities and two art projects. We will begin with an understanding of what identity is and why it is important. I will show students how they are unique and have them discover what makes them unique. They will compose poetry based on their identity and apply the poem to a self-portrait they will also express color and line. Also included in the unit will be a narrative that students will interpret based on their specific community whether it is family, friends or pets. In this artwork we will differentiate what it is that makes us who we are based on who and what is around us. At the end of this unit students will partake in a critique and they will determine based on their own experience and uniqueness what makes their peers art well conceived and what needs work.

**Rationale for each Lesson:**

Lesson One: What About Me?

In this lesson students will learn what the meaning of identity is. The class will associate the concept of identity to themselves and we will read a children’s book to help understand the term identity and what it means to be ourselves. Students will work with a partner to recognize their differences and similarities.

Lesson Two: Who Am I?

In this lesson students will demonstrate their knowledge of identity by creating a poem about themselves. They will analyze what they learned about themselves through Lesson One to create a poem that gives a clear idea of how they see themselves. Students will use their creative thinking skills to develop a succinct that is uniquely their own.

Lesson Three: Look at Me!

In this lesson we will devote our time to creating self portraits. We will look at artist Paul Klee and discuss his influence on modern art. An example of his work*, Ghost of a Genius* will be discussed and analyzed. Students will create their self portrait with the use of line and color much like Paul Klee. We will discuss how specific lines and specific colors can express who we are much like our personality. We will then incorporate our poem we created in Lesson Two.

Lesson Four: My Story

In this lesson we will look at artist Georges Suerat and his painting *Sunday Afternoon on the Island La Grande Jatte.* Students will produce their own artwork in the Pointillism style using the community around them to tell the story of who they are. We will experiment with color to examine how Suerat achieved his Pointillism effect. Students should identify what it is that makes them unique and illustrate this in their paintings.

Lesson Five: Look Closely!

In this lesson we will wrap up our unit with a critique of our Pointillism paintings. Each student will present their artwork and tell the story of their painting. After presentations students will evaluate another students work. Students will assess what is working in the artwork and what could have been done better. Students must keep in mind that we have discussed identity and they should be able to recognize this in their peers work.

**Before the Unit:**

The Unit before Identity will be about Culture and Diversity. The students will look at where we come from and accepting others for who they are. I will find cultures that are relevant to the students and we will explore their heritage, art and celebrations. By reviewing other cultures I hope that students will have more tolerance and understanding that not everyone is the same. This should lead us to look more deeply at ourselves in the Unit on Identity.

**After the Unit:**

After the unit on Identity we will have a unit on Fantasy. I feel that after all this deep inward expression that it would be a nice release to explore fantasy and how it affects our lives and the world around us. I will teach what it means to be creative and use our imaginations to create works of art. We can explore the what if of art making and use this to find out what ways we use fantasy to make our lives more enjoyable. Each student will be allowed freedom of expression when completing these lessons.