**Unit 1.5 Who Am I? Lesson: Acrostic Poem Grade Levels 2–4**

**Yearlong Objectives**
- I can recognize my own unique skills.
- I can express myself with words and art.
- I can work as part of an ensemble.

**Essential Questions**
- How can I create a work of art that is all my own and that demonstrates my unique qualities?

**Lesson Objectives**
- Define “comfortable” and “uncomfortable” and identify which they are feeling.
- Create and present a collage-based self-portrait with an accompanying acrostic poem.

**National Arts Standards**
Note: For consistency, all arts standards listed are second grade standards. However, National Anchor Standards naturally build on each other. To adjust for your grade level, find the corresponding Anchor Standard for your grade.

- Make art or design with various materials and tools to explore personal interests, questions, and curiosity. (VA:Cr1.2.2a)
- Create works of art about events in home, school, or community life. (VA:Cn10.1.2a)
- Categorize images based on expressive properties. (VA:Re.7.2.2a)
- Contribute to group guided drama experiences (e.g., process drama, story drama, creative drama) and informally share with peers. (TH:Pr6.1.2.)

**Materials needed**
- full-body portraits, scrap draft paper, heavy white paper, pastels or crayons, paper scraps, scissors and glue, talking piece, emotions cards

**Time needed**
- 90 minutes

**Vocabulary for this lesson**
- Social-Emotional: comfortable, uncomfortable
- Visual Arts: collage, shape, composition, portrait
- Theatre: ensemble

**Warm-Up Phase (15 minutes)**
- Circle: “Would you rather” question: Would you rather meet an alien visitor on Earth or go to outer space?
- Feelings question: Sometimes we feel things like sad, mad, or scared. Those are UNCOMFORTABLE feelings. Sometimes
we feel things like happy, glad, or joyful. Those are COMFORTABLE feelings. How are you feeling right now: Comfortable or Uncomfortable?

Team-building game: Build a song, Level 5 (see Team-Building Games)

I Do/We Do (20 minutes)
Explicitly Teach
- Revisit class objectives.
- Revisit “comfortable” and “uncomfortable.”
- Revisit the definition of collage is, and have students help you remember the qualities of an interesting and unique collage composition.
- Introduce the new objective. Today we will be creating a word-based collage. Often, visual art and language go together. Use picture books as examples.
- Explain what an acrostic poem is, and give examples (see two at the bottom of this lesson). Explain what a draft is and why it is important. Artists usually start with a draft, which is a sketch, or a version of something before you create your final version with your final art materials.

Keep in Mind
- Go over norms for the art space. (Class may decide to make these norms themselves, or the teacher may create them. A possibility is, “Everyone remains safe, respectful, and seen.”)
- Reminders on how to use the supplies and materials safely.
- How can I best share materials?
- What do I do if I don’t like the way my piece turned out?
- What if I misspell something? What tools are at my disposal? What tools can I use to check my work?

You Do (55 minutes)
The project, step-by-step
- Start by creating a draft.
- Write your name in large letters vertically down the paper.
- Come up with words that begin with each letter that are also special and unique about you. (Example: P for “Plays Piano.”) Each letter can correspond with a single word, a series of words, or an entire sentence.
- Compose an entire acrostic poem on draft paper before moving to final paper
- Decide on a collage technique to use: either write the poem on the paper first and collage second, or use collage elements first and write second.
- Students might challenge themselves to cut each letter of their name out of paper.
- Create a final draft that incorporates elements of collage in unique ways (crumpled textures, layers, shapes, color).

Extensions: Create an acrostic poem for your last name, too.
Closure: There should be a presentation of all the work students have completed over the course of the session.
Optional Writing Prompt: What parts of your project are you proudest of? Why?

Big Picture
We are all done! Your portrait is unique and special, just like you are.

Adjustments for K-1
Warm-Up Phase
Either ask the question or play the simplified version of the game.
I Do/ We Do
Revisit “comfortable” and “uncomfortable,” and introduce the new objective, but don’t take too long. Shorten to 10 minutes.

You Do
Have students cut out the letters of their name the best they can, and then decorate them with colors and shapes that are unique and special to the people they are.

Sample Acrostics

Tumbling through the air
Ready to become
Airborne at any
Moment, feeling the springs
Push you up
Over and around again and again
Light as a feather
Instantly rebounding,
Naturally full of
Energy

Jump
Up high
Swimmer
Trying my best
I like to dive
Noisy