with feeling
EMOTIONAL INTELLIGENCE THROUGH THE ARTS

Unit 4.5  Lesson: Solving Problems Option Wheel  Grade Levels 5–8

Yearlong Objectives
- Express oneself in words and art.
- Work as an ensemble.
- Understand the power and importance of uniqueness.

Lesson Objectives
- Identify strategies that can be used to deal with conflicts.
- Explain the importance of having conflicts end in Win-Win outcomes.
- Create a collaborative wheel of strategies using watercolors.

Essential Questions
- What is conflict?
- What are some important things to keep in mind when dealing with a conflict?
- How can thinking strategies improve an outcome to a conflict?

National Arts Standards
- Formulate an artistic investigation of personally relevant content for creating art. (VA:Cr1.2.6a)
- Design or redesign objects, places, or systems that meet the identified needs of diverse users. (VA:CR2.3.6a)
- Contribute ideas and accept and incorporate the ideas of others in preparing or devising drama/theatre work. (TH:Cr2-6.b)

Materials needed
Parchment paper cut into 8 large wedges, index card sized watercolor paper, watercolors, paintbrushes, water

Time needed
90 minutes

Vocabulary for this lesson
Social-Emotional: conflict, resolution, unique
Visual Arts: watercolor, abstract, collaboration
Theatre: ensemble, setting, character

Warm-Up Phase (15 minutes)
Circle: Open-ended question: Have you ever wanted a pet? What kind of pet did you want?
Optional follow-up question: How are you feeling right now? Use an emotion word and explain why.
Team-building game: Zip Zap Zop, Level 5 (see Team-Building Games)
I Do/ We Do (20 minutes)
Explicitly Teach

- Access prior knowledge. Have students brainstorm all they know about conflict and empathy. Make a list on the board.
- Introduce new concept: Steps for resolution. We know there are many conflict outcomes. Really, though, it's important that conflicts end in Win-Win outcomes as much as possible. There are some steps that we can all take to ensure that happens.
- Have students brainstorm their own ideas on the board about positive ways to go about dealing with conflicts, and things to remember when engaged in a conflict. If a student suggests something inappropriate, have students discuss the option, and figure out whether that tactic would result in a Win-Win outcome.
- Make sure the following things to keep in mind are all on the board:
  - Take time to cool off.
  - Think about the person as a person. (Empathize.)
  - State your mind clearly and calmly.
  - Try to understand what the other person is saying, and listen carefully.
  - Find something you can agree about.
  - Ask for and give feedback on major points.
  - Explain how you are feeling.
  - Stay present.
  - Never assume what the other person is thinking.
- There may be other things on this list. It should just be a list of things to keep in mind when dealing with a one-on-one conflict. However, you should pick eight strategies as a class that you feel are most important.
- Introduce art concept: collaborative watercolor. Today we'll be illustrating some of these tips and strategies in watercolors, but we'll be using our collective drawings to create a class-sized conflict resolution wheel.

Keep in Mind

- Go over norms for an art space. Art space needs to be safe and calm. What needs to happen to ensure everyone feels that way?
- Talk about collaborative work. It can be hard to part with work you are proud of. What happens if you don't want to share your work with the group?

You Do (55 minutes)
The project, step-by-step

- The teacher should have created a larger version of the attached pie shapes. Cutting the pie wedges out of parchment paper is a good way to make them big enough.
- Take an index card sized sheet of watercolor paper to begin with.
- Select a strategy that would be useful in dealing with a conflict.
- Create an illustration with watercolors that shows the strategy.
- When your illustration is complete, attach it to the wheel wedge that corresponds with the strategy you illustrated.
- When all wheel wedges have several examples, tape them together to create one large wheel of strategies.

Extensions: Create an illustration for every strategy. Conversational extension: Is a compromise always a Win-Win? When might it be a Win-Lose?
Closure: Have students role-play using the different strategies with simple conflict examples.
Optional Writing Prompt: What strategy to you feel you'll be most likely to use? Why?