

## Enhancement Activities/Strategies for Gifted/High Ability Learners: Gifted Strategies Learning Plan

### Big Idea/ Topic

#### Plot, Theme & Figurative Language

Friendship is better than Competition.

Consider this scenario for 7<sup>th</sup> grade involving the **Theme of Fostering Friendships**

Recently, there have been several disagreements among fellow students that have disrupted student free time, class change time, as well as class time. These arguments stem from cultural differences among students.

You have been selected to serve on the principal's student advisory team which has been tasked with finding ways to foster friendship in a diverse school.

### Standard Alignment

**ELAGSE7RL1:** Cite several pieces of textual evidence to support analysis of what the text says explicitly as well as inferences drawn from the text.

**ELAGSE7RL2:** Determine a theme and/or central idea of a text and analyze its development over the course of the text; provide an objective summary of the text.

**ELAGSE7RL3:** Analyze how particular elements of a story or drama interact (e.g., how settings shape the characters or plot).

**ELAGSE7RL4:** Determine the meaning of words and phrases as they are used in a text, including figurative and connotative meanings; analyze the impact of rhymes and other repetitions of sounds (e.g., alliteration) on a specific verse or stanza of a poem or section of a story or drama.

**ELAGSE7RL6:** Analyze how an author develops and contrasts the points of view of different characters or narrators in a text.

**ELAGSE7RL10:** Read and Comprehend a Variety of Grade-Level Literary Texts

**ELAGSE7W3:** Write narratives to develop real or imagined experiences or events using effective technique, relevant descriptive details, and well-structured event sequences.

**ELAGSE7W9:** Draw evidence from literary or informational texts to support analysis, reflection, and research.

**ELAGSE7L6:** Acquire and accurately use grade-appropriate general academic and domain-specific words and phrases; gather vocabulary knowledge when considering a word or phrase important to comprehension or expression.

**ELAGSE7SL1:** Engage effectively in a range of collaborative discussions (one-on-one, in groups, and teacher-led) with diverse partners on grade 7 topics and texts, building on others' ideas and expressing their own clearly.

**ELAGSE7SL2:** Analyze the main ideas and supporting details presented in diverse media and formats (e.g., visually, quantitatively, orally) and explain how the ideas clarify a topic, text, or issue under study.

**ELAGSE7SL5:** Include multimedia components and visual displays in presentations to clarify claims and findings and

emphasize salient points.

### Advanced Research

With a diverse partner research different books that are in your media center that address problems between characters due to differences. Look for books that show how characters solve their problems and create friendships rather than competitors. Design and illustrate a book cover for 2 to 4 of those books and create a poster to promote the reading of those books. Be sure to include the name of the author and illustrator. Also, include a “teaser” summary inviting readers to read the books. Exhibit these posters around the school or give an oral presentation to the principal’s student advisory team. Record the oral presentation to share it via multimedia throughout the school.

### Communication

#### Group Communication:

Working with the diverse members of the Principal’s advisory committee, identify how different cultures celebrate important events during the school year. Create a Public Service Announcement in the form of a video that shares and celebrates the differences of cultures through maintaining friendships.

#### Individual Verbal Communication:

Read a book about students of different cultures. Create a T-Chart showing qualities that are unique to each character and that are like each character. Then consider how you can appreciate the value of uniqueness of someone in your life. Prepare an informative or motivational speech sharing the value of having such a person as your friend. In your speech use 3 to 5 examples of figurative language to further illustrate the importance of friendship between culturally diverse friends.

### Critical Thinking and Critical Problem-Solving Skills

#### Personal Research and Discovery:

With a partner create and conduct a survey of students in your school about diversity. Include problems

students face working together and in maintaining friendships with each other. After obtaining results from the survey, determine the areas that are most problematic for students in your school. Brainstorm ways to encourage friendship rather than competition among diverse students and present your ideas to the principal. Include at least 3-5 examples of figurative language that help illustrate your points. Consider creating a chart or PowerPoint to present your ideas.

### **Creative Thinking and Creative Problem-Solving Skills**

#### **Creative Writing:**

With a diverse partner, write a short story following the plot diagram that shows how students in your school can solve problems that arise because of differences. Include students of different backgrounds and explain how the students overcome their differences to become supportive friends rather than competitors. Use media resources to create an audio version of your story to be considered for upload to your school's webpage.

**Bonus:** Rewrite your short story using poetry as the structure. (use writing rubric, but look for elements of poetry like stanzas, rhyme, rhythm, etc.)

### **Awareness of Self—Student's Well-being**

#### **Positivity:**

Create one of the following to share weekly to encourage all students to embrace diverse friendships to create positive learning environments and life-long experiences. Include 3-5 figurative language examples to illustrate your ideas.

1. Video PSA
2. Intercom Announcements
3. Skits showing conflict resolution and friendship development shared in homeroom or at lunch.