Instructional Unit Title: Can’t We Just Get Along?

The teacher may facilitate class discussion so that students can understand the underlying factors that create conflict and be able to define external and internal conflict.

The teacher may use fiction texts rich with external/internal conflicts (e.g., The Dog Who Cried Wolf) so that students can extend their understandings of conflict within and between characters. [Understanding text]

The teacher may use a variety of fiction texts so that students can begin to understand that characters develop as a result of conflict. [Understanding text, Responding to text]

The teacher may use fiction texts that emphasize different perspectives so that students can begin analyzing different points of view related to specific conflict(s). [Understanding text, Responding to text]

The teacher may guide activities on brainstorming and researching historical events so that students can begin understanding the steps in an effective research process. [Producing text]

The teacher may introduce examples of historical fiction so that students can begin to analyze plot structure and character development related to conflict in this genre. [Understanding text, Responding to text]

The teacher may use paired readings of fiction/non-fiction texts based on historical events so that students can analyze how conflict in real-life events is represented by fiction and non-fiction authors. [Understanding text, Responding to text]

The teacher may use non-fiction reading materials so that students can begin to understand conflict in current real life or historical situations. [Understanding text, Responding to text]

The teacher may present a menu of options (e.g., story board, movie script, graphic novel) so that students can begin analyzing the power and appropriateness of these writing formats for communicating conflict. [Producing text]

The teacher may guide the writing process so that students can understand the recursive process of developing a complex piece of writing. [Producing text]

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PERFORMANCE ASSESSMENT: The principal of your school is very interested in helping students better handle conflicts! Knowing that you and your classmates are experts on this topic, the principal has asked that you create short written and visual products that illustrate internal/external conflict and conflict resolution. You may base your work on historical figures or literary characters, but your task is to reveal the internal and external conflict which the people/characters experienced along with the ways in which they worked to resolve the conflict(s).

This unit was authored by a team of Colorado educators. The unit is intended to support teachers, schools, and districts as they make their own local decisions around the best instructional plans and practices for all students. To see the entire instructional unit sample with possible learning experiences, resources, differentiation, and assessments visit http://www.cde.state.co.us/standardsandinstruction/instructionalunitsamples.