Maari Anderson

**Lesson Plan-**

*I wanted to try out a lesson that could be taught to younger audience and start by confronting our “gender schemas”, and challenging their validity. Just because boys OFTEN love girls, why is it wrong for boys to love other boys? There is no law against it, which means our country believes it's valid, so why can't we get past it? Just because it may make you uncomfortable, doesn't make it wrong. I think that by seeing how trying to fit into these societal “gender genres” is harmful and limiting for everyone, we will stop torturing those who choose to share their “outlier” characteristics.  Being gay may fall into the “outlier” category TODAY for these gender ideologies, but it hasn’t always- and it hopefully won’t forever.*

**3-5 grades**

*“Are you a boy or a girl? Pink or blue? Does it matter?”*

Time Allotted: 45 minutes

**Objectives:**

* Students will **challenge their pre-determined gender ideologies** by finding “pink” (girl) and “blue” (boy) characteristics and then **using both colored characteristics to describe themselves** in a drawing of their head.
* Students will **analyze examples of “non-traditionally-gendered” people** by reading The Princess Boy and **finding both male and female gendered qualities** and listing them in a journal.
* Students will **discuss how they have both “pink” and “blue” characteristics** with their families by **writing those characteristics down on a homework-sheet.**

Lesson

 Snappy Launch:

* Students will list qualities of a boy, and qualities of a girl on post-its and then place the post-its in the correct column on the board. (The “girl” post-its will be pink, and the “boy” will be blue).
* We will read off the post-its together.

Lesson

* I will describe a person (using boy and girl qualities) and ask the students whether this person is a boy or a girl.
  + Does it matter?
  + I will explain that I described myself.
  + Ask, “Does having the “blue” qualities make me less of a girl? Does it make me a boy? “
  + “Sometimes we think it’s “wrong” or “bad” for people to have both “pink” and “blue” qualities, why?
  + Read The Princess Boy by Cheryl Kilodavis
    - Discuss: What was “wrong” with the boy? Was it really a problem, or just a little “different” for the mom?
      * Write list of colored qualities in journals
        + What were his “blue” qualities?
        + What were his “pink” qualities?
* Do you think we are all a mixture of both? Could there be even more “colored” qualities? What would an orange quality be?
* Draw a picture of your head, and write different words that describe “you” inside the head. Use at least 5 words from our “pink and blue” list, and use at least two words from each color. (If students come up with other words not on the list, add them during the activity).

* **Close** with discussion on bullying. “Now, we all see that we are all more than just “pink qualities” or “blue qualities”, we probably even have some “green” or “orange” qualities as well. So, why would we tease or exclude someone because they have different colored qualities, or different opinions than us? Is that ok?

* Challenge: next time you think someone is “weird” or “wrong” because YOU think they have qualities or interests that they “shouldn’t”, try and think of at least 2 qualities others may think you “shouldn’t” have.
* Talk with your families at home and list 3 characteristics that you or your family has that don’t fit your “gender color”.
  + Does that matter?

**Other idea:** It would be cool to do the original snappy launch activity with pink post-its for the male qualities and the blue post-its for girls. STudents will inevitably complain/ask why we are using the "wrong" colors- which the teacher could respond, "why is that wrong? Aren't they just colors? Why does it matter". (Just thought of this before submitting.)

**Resources**

* The Princess Boy by Cheryl Kilodavis

**Assessment**

**15 points** for completed drawing including at least 5 characteristics (at least 2 blue and 2 pink)

**5 points**for completing lists of both “pink” and “blue” qualities of the character in The Princess Boy

**3 points** for returning homework-sheet with at least 3 characteristics listed that may not fit with other’s “gender” id