Elizabeth Williams

Lesson:

Grades 3-5

Objectives: \* Will be able to define the term “conflict”

\*Understand the terms gay and lesbian

\*Be able to identify what discrimination is and that it is not only hurtful, but unacceptable to discriminate based onsexual orientation

Areas: Social Skills class

Snappy launch: Prior to this lesson, we will have discussed on what families look like and differences in family composition. Discussion will be started with “Remember when we talked about what a family is? Do you ever have times in your family when you don’t agree? Discuss and introduce the term conflict. After defining, giving examples, and letting students give examples, continue with lesson. Introduce the book” My Two Uncles” by Judith Vigna.

Explain that there is a conflict in this book that you want the students to be listening for and then read book outloud to students. (Book is about a little girl Elly who loves her two “uncles” dearly- her biological uncle and his partner, and can’t understand when her uncle’s partner is not invited by her grandpa to her grandparent’s anniversary party. There is an excellent description about what it means to be gay in the book and the conflict that Elly talks through with her Dad is why her grandpa doesn’t accept her uncle’s partner as part of the family and that his son is gay.)

Procedure:

After reading book, ask the following questions.

1. Do you think that Elly loves her two uncles? What are some examples from the book?
2. Elly makes the statement that she has an Uncle Ned and he is her “real” uncle, but that Ned has a “friend” named Phil that her Dad calls his partner. Why does Elly call Phil “Uncle Phil?”
3. What does it mean to be ” partners” in this book? ( Re-read the passage in the book that describes what it means to be partners/gay- “sometimes a man loves another man in the way a married couple love each other”) Discuss the terms gay and lesbian.
4. Why did Elly’s grandpa not want Uncle Phil to come to the party but wanted Uncle Ned to

come to the party?

5. What is Elly’s dad’s explanation for why her grandpa does not want Uncle Phil to come to

the party?

6. Did Uncle Ned go to the anniversary party without Uncle Phil? Would you have gone

to the party if you were Uncle Ned? Why or why not?

7. What happened at the party with Elly’s grandpa?

8. Do you think after the party that Elly’s grandpa had changed his mind about Ned and Phil? Why or why not? Give examples of what grandpa did or said.

After answering the questions as a large group, have students journal their answers to these questions individually.

1. What was the conflict in this story?
2. Do you think Elly's two uncles should be invited to the next family function? Why or why not?

Assessment:

5 points for each question answered appropriately during group discussion

15 points for answers to journal questions with supporting statements from the book or discussion (5 points for question #1 and 10 points for question #2)