Counselor Name: Karen Ward
Title of Lesson: Meet Danitra Brown
Audience: ☒ Classroom  ☐ Small Group
Level: ☐ Primary (K-2)  ☒ Intermediate (3-5)
Target Grade: 4th

COUNSELING STANDARDS

ACADEMIC
1. Acquire knowledge and skills that contribute to effective learning in school and throughout life. ☐
2. Complete school with academic preparation essential to choose from a wide range of substantial post-secondary options, including college. ☐
3. Understand the relationship of academics to life at home, in the community and the world of work. ☐

CAREER
4. Acquire the skills to investigate the world of work in relation to knowledge of self and to make informed career decisions. ☐
5. Employ strategies to achieve future career success and satisfaction. ☐
6. Understand the relationships between personal qualities, education, training and the world of work. ☐

PERSONAL/SOCIAL
7. Acquire the attitudes, knowledge, and interpersonal skills to help them understand and respect self and others. ☒
8. Make decisions, set goals, and take necessary action to achieve established goals. ☐
9. Understand safety and survival skills. ☐

COUNSELING COMPETENCY(IES)
Identify sources and effects of peer pressure.

STATE STANDARD:
Reading P.O. Identify characteristics and structural elements (e.g., imagery, rhyme, verse, rhythm, meter) of poetry.
Writing P.O. Determine the intended audience of a writing piece.
Math P.O.

MATERIALS/RESOURCES:
The book, Meet Danitra Brown by Nikki Grimes (Scholastic).
Another good book for this competency is The Other Side by Jacqueline Woodson.
Also need friendship chart, poetry paper, venn diagram, friendship game, poster board to create a Circle of Friends.

ACTIVITY:
Discuss friendship by charting qualities that are needed to build friendships and by charting qualities that tear down friendships. Introduce Danitra Brown as the main character and read the story. Discuss poetry and what makes this writing poetry. Allow time for the students to share
what is special about their friends. Talk with students about the characteristics and structural elements of poetry in the book (e.g., imagery, rhyme, verse, rhythm, meter) With these elements in mind have students write a short poem about a friend. The poem could be given as a gift or shared in the classroom. Make sure everyone gets a poem. Refer to qualities chart for ideas. Have the class do one or more Venn diagrams. Follow up with a discussion. The Venn diagram activity gives students a chance to find out more about each other. The closure to this lesson is to create a Circle of Friends poster, including every member of the class.

**EVALUATION:**
**Pretest/Postest:**

*How did the student change as a result of this lesson?* Students will share in writing about what makes their friend special. Student will understand the importance of working cooperatively with a partner and with every member of the class to complete the Circle of Friends poster.

*Information/Comments/Follow-up:* Notice those students unable to work well with others. It may be necessary to work with a few students at a time to build friendship skills.

*Revised 10/13/04*
Directions: Take a few minutes to talk with your partner about things you like. For example, read, play football, favorite eating place, favorite subject, etc. Now, select some ways that you and your partner are alike and write your choices in the large outside circle under your name. On the small inside circle write the ways you are different.