**Lesson Plan: Finding love & confidence with Gaston and Sally**

- **Overview**

In Kelly DiPuccio's *Gaston*, Gaston and Antoinette's families notice differences, and know their loving families look perfect with their differences. In *The Smallest Girl in the Smallest Grade,* Justin Roberts shows Sally McCabe noticing everything around her, including what makes people different. Her knack for noticing things gives her the confidence to stand up for kindness. In this lesson, students will take turns noticing what makes their classmates special and build confidence in themselves and others.

- **Resources & Preparation**
    - The book *Gaston*
    - The book *The Smallest Girl in the Smallest Grade*
    - Pencils
    - Paper or attached kindness journals

- **Instructional Plan**

Student Objectives:

- *Students will engage in collaborative discussion about texts*
- *Students will determine the authors' purposes*
- *Students will express an opinion about a topic and provide reasons as support*
- *Students will use domain-appropriate vocabulary to communicate ideas in writing and recognize adjectives*

1. The first part of the lesson should take place after reading *Gaston*
2. After reading the stories, ask students about what made Gaston and Antoinette different from their families before and after the swap. Explain that even though they looked different and acted different, they were still special to their families.
3. The second part of the lesson should take place after reading *The Smallest Girl in the Smallest Grade*
4. After reading, remind the students that it's important to be kind and to say something to each other or to a teacher when they hear others being unkind. Ask the students about the little ways Sally's challenge to be kind made others happy.
5. Have students pass around a Kindness Journal or a piece of paper with their name on it. As the pages circulate the classroom, each person should write down one kind thing about the journal's owner. This may be anonymous.
6. Ask students to look at their kindness journals. Ask students what they can say or do when they see someone being mean (Possible answers: Remind myself about what is in this journal, tell the person being mean something kind about the person they are hurting, tell a teacher, etc)

- **Additional Resources**

The kindness journal on the next two pages can be printed two-sided [Print on both pages, flip on short edge] and folded to add a more structured element to the activity. For further lessons on kindness, the second page can be duplicated [print copies of page 3 in multiples of two, same settings]. The back page allows for action planning.

Different ways I can be **Kind**

# courage+ kindness

A JOURNAL FOR _____

What makes me so **great**

What makes me so **great**