**Introduction to the Philosophy of Beauty**

**Overview**:

What makes something beautiful? How do we differentiate between beauty and something being less beautiful? Through an arts and crafts activity we will explore the contents of beauty.

**Goal**:

To get students to think about what makes something beautiful versus not. To be able to describe what beauty means to them. And for students to understand that beauty is subjective and everyone has different ideas on what beauty is.

**Material**:

-At least 2 pieces of paper (can be colorful or plain)

-Color pencils/crayons

**Activity**:

1. Ask students what beauty is? What does it mean for something to be beautiful? Ask them for some examples of beautiful things. After having them explain what they think it is, simplify the definition of beauty to mean traits that people think look pretty/nice.
2. Switch off the nature of beauty, and ask the students when they think of a monster what do they see? Are monsters beautiful or not beautiful (refrain from using the term ugly). Why?
3. After talking about monsters, tell the students to pull out a sheet of paper and their coloring materials. Tell them that they have 5 minutes to draw a beautiful picture of a monster. After the 5 min are up ask if anyone wants to describe their drawing. Have them talk about the colors they used and designs they made. Also ask what characteristics about their monsters make them beautiful. Continue the reflection until you feel as though it is time to move on to the next step.
4. Now tell the students to pull out their other sheet of paper. They have 5 minutes to draw another monster but this time, they must draw a monster that is not beautiful. After the time is up ask the same questions as before. Focusing on the characteristics that makes this monster not beautiful, as well as any other color choices and designs they made this time around.
5. After talking about the second drawing of the monster, ask them to compare and contrast the two drawings. What differences did they make in their drawing and why? Why did they make different color choices or add different characteristics?
6. Turn the focus from the monsters back to the concept of beauty. Ask the students why they think their drawings were different? Explain that the reason why everyone’s drawing was different is because everyone perceives beauty differently. What may be beautiful to one person is not the same to someone else.

**Wrap-up**:

Wrap up the exercise by going over the concepts discussed in the lesson. Ask if anyone has any final questions or comments that they have on beauty that they would like to share.

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