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Using the children's book containing a conflict situation you brought, complete the following template.

Book title \_\_The Butter Battle Book\_\_\_\_\_

Author \_\_\_\_Dr Seuss\_\_\_\_\_

Age group \_\_\_\_\_2<sup>nd</sup>—4<sup>th</sup> grade\_\_\_\_\_

Respond to each of the following items in paragraph form.

1. In 5-7 sentences explain the conflict situation in the story.

The conflict in this story takes place between the Zooks and the Yooks. There is a wall that separates the land of the Zooks, who eat their bread butter side down, and the Yooks who eat their bread butter side up. Each group believes that the way that they eat their bread is the only way to eat bread, and when the wall patrolman for the Yooks has his "Snick-Berry Switch" destroyed by a Zook by the name of VanItch, a war breaks out. The Yooks begin creating weapons to destroy the Zooks, and the Zooks soon retaliate by creating their own weapons that outdo the Yooks. Eventually both sides create a weapon of mass destruction, a "Big-Boy Boomeroo." The end leaves us wondering who drop the bomb first, the Zooks or the Yooks. +5

2. Who is involved? What is their conflict resolution style? (Avoidance, competition, problem solving) what are the consequences of handling it that way?

Who is Involved: The two wall patrolmen VanItch (Zook) and a character referred to as Grandpa (Yook), the Chief Yookeroo and his Boys in the Back Room.

Conflict Resolution Style: The conflict resolution style of both the Zooks and the Yooks is competition. The consequences of handling consequences this way leads to a standstill in the conflict and both sides are left to decide who will destroy the other first. However, the conflict never really gets resolved because each side is still angry at each other. +5

3. How might a teacher help the characters resolve this conflict? Name specific strategies that have been discussed during this course that might assist with solving this conflict. A teacher might help the characters resolve this conflict by having "talk it out" sessions, where each side discusses their points of view and they come up with a resolution together. The conflict that is taking place in this story involves a conflict of differences, where each side does not like the other because one side thinks that they are right and that the other side is wrong. During the

“talk it out” sessions they could talk about their differences and learn about how differences don’t mean that it is wrong or bad. +5

4. The conflict situation was resolved in the story, but when might this resolution not work? The conflict was not exactly resolved in this story, as (if it were a real life situation) the characters would still probably be standing on the wall still, holding up their “Big-Boy Boomerangs.” I think that this competitive resolution style did not work for the situation in the story which why ultimate destruction is eminent. I think that a better conflict resolution style that could have been used is problem solving. There would not be a conflict if the Yooks and the Zooks understood that they are all the same, they just like to eat their bread a different way. If they used problem solving they would be able to work through the problem and see ways to get along without turning to violence, like they did in the story. +5

5. Create two or three higher level questions a teacher could ask students to create discussion that would enhance the students’ understanding of the conflict in this story or resolving similar conflicts.

How might other communities feel about the ‘war’ between the Yooks and the Zooks? Why?

How would you feel if you lived in the land of the Yooks? What would you do? +5

6. As a classroom teacher wanting to teach a mini lesson on conflict resolution select two or three skills listed on page 17 in the “Overview of Conflict Resolution Instruction” in handout packet and explain how this story would support teaching these skills. Identify sections of story that you would utilize to explicitly teach each skill.

A mini-lesson for this story might discuss how resolving conflict does not mean that someone has to lose. I would have a discussion with my students about why the Yooks and the Zooks felt intimidated by each other, which is why they used competition to try to “beat” one another by creating bigger and better machines to destroy each other. One of the skills that would go along with this mini-lesson is “how to talk out differences.” Right from the beginning when the grandpa is patrolling the wall, he and VanItch could have talked about their differences rather than starting a violent race to be the best. When the grandpa character goes to the Chief Yookeroo the first time to explain that one of the Zooks lashed out at him, the Chief could have gone to the Chief of the Zooks and talked about why there was a conflict, rather than trying to come up with a new-fangled weapon to intimidate the other side of the wall. Another skill that could be taught and discussed during this mini-lesson is “how to manage anger.” The pictures

clearly illustrate the anger between the two groups. Violence and weaponry is not a way to manage conflict and anger. I think a better alternative is to just walk away from the situation to allow cool down time from both sides, before any other action is taken to resolve the conflict between the Zooks and the Yooks. +5