

## CURRICULUM CONNECTIONS

# The Weight of Words



Support for the Student Enrichment Through the Arts program has been provided by



**Frederick A. DeLuca**  
FOUNDATION

and the following Funds at the



Leonard & Sally Robbins Fund • Mary and Alex Mackenzie Community Impact Fund  
The Frederick A. DeLuca Foundation Broward Community Fund

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## Know Before you Go:

- Arrive at the theater 15 to 20 minutes before show time. Allow extra time for Broward County traffic. We are unable to start a show late.
- Please stay on the bus until greeted by a SEAS usher. At that time, please give the usher your BUS document and the usher will escort you to the theater.
- Remember to watch our Know Before You Go Video:

<https://tinyurl.com/SecondaryWelcomeSEAS>

## Sensory Experience Ratings:

Below are some ratings to help students prepare for the experience.

A rating of 1 represents a small amount and a rating of 5 represents a large amount.

- Potentially Anxious Moments: 4
- Scarieness: 0
- Theatrical Effects: 0





Dear Educators,

We are excited to present this Curriculum Connection (Study Guide) as a valuable resource to support your teaching journey. This guide has been carefully designed to offer engaging and meaningful activities for use in your classroom before and after seeing a S.E.A.S. performance at The Broward Center's Amaturro Theater, The Parker, or Miniaci at NSU. Each section is structured to make it easier for you to integrate cross-curricular connections, providing a seamless experience for students to deepen their understanding while exploring the creative process.

The activities and lessons in this guide have been intentionally crafted to complement Florida's B.E.S.T. standards. By utilizing these resources, you will be able to foster a dynamic and creative learning environment while ensuring students meet key academic goals. We encourage you to adapt the materials to best fit your classroom's needs and objectives, empowering students to think critically and creatively across all disciplines.

We want to take a moment to express our sincere appreciation for the passion and dedication you bring to your classrooms every day. Your commitment to infusing art-full moments into education not only enriches your students' learning experiences but also ignites their curiosity and creativity. Thank you for inspiring the next generation of thinkers, creators, and innovators. We are truly grateful for the impact you have on your students' lives. Consider joining the Teacher's Lounge (QR code below) to be notified of special events and discounts just for Teachers.

Don't forget to distribute your S.E.A.S. stickers when you return to school (after the trip) and share the magic that is Student Enrichment Through the Arts!



Teacher's Lounge



# Theater Etiquette

*There is so much that goes into creating a show for the stage. Behind the scenes, there are people who control the lights and the sound, the sets and the props. There are directors, writers, producers, musicians, and choreographers. So many people work together to create the performance you and everyone in the audience watches.*

It is helpful to remind students of appropriate audience etiquette by explaining and discussing WHY these rules of behavior are important:

- Restroom visits are best made prior to the performance.
- Listen carefully to the ushers and your teachers. This gets everyone to your seats quickly and ensures a pleasant experience.
- Turn watches and cell phones to silent.
- Walk single file, hold hand rails as you use the steps for your safety.
- Listen carefully to each performer. They are working hard to entertain and inform with lots of clues about the story.
- Refrain from TALKING. This allows everyone to enjoy the show without distraction. Sometimes we think that if we whisper it is okay. But, if everyone in the audience whispers, it becomes disruptive.
- Laugh if something is funny, but not too loudly, you don't want to miss any dialogue.
- Photography and recording are not permitted.
- Pay attention to the lighting, scenery, costumes and music. All of these elements help provide more details to tell the story in an interesting way.
- Applaud (clap) and laugh at the right moments. This shows the performers that you respect and appreciate their work.

# Theater Vocabulary: From Script to Spotlight

**Play:** A story told live on stage by actors in front of a live audience.

**Musical:** A story told live on stage by actors in front of a live audience that also involves singing and dancing.

**Genre:** The style of a play.

**Plot:** The timeline of actions in the story from beginning to end.

**Setting:** Where a story takes place.

**Characters:** Who the story is about.

**Conflict:** A problem that the characters in the story have to face and overcome. A conflict arises when a character wants something but something else gets in their way.

**Objective:** What a character wants to achieve or solve in the story. In other words, a character's goal.

**Protagonist:** The story's **hero**. This is the character who is out to accomplish a goal or find purpose.

**Antagonist:** The story's **villain**. This character is usually against what the protagonist(s) needs to accomplish their objective or goal.

**Dialogue:** a conversation between two or more people in a play or musical.

**Moment Before:** an acting term that encourages actors to consider what is going on in their character's life just before the present moment.

**Blocking:** Movement the director give to the actors to show them where to go on the stage

**Choreography:** A sequence of dance moves assigned to a dancer in a musical number (song) that are used to help tell the story.

**Cue:** In theater, a cue signals when another action should begin. Ex: The actor's cue to enter the stage might be after they hear the thunder sound effect.

**Make-Up:** Artistically designed cosmetics to enhance an actor's portrayal of a character.

**Playwright:** The writer or writers of the play. Playwrights write the dialogue between characters in a play.

**Composer:** The artist who writes music for a musical.

**Lyricist:** the artist who writes words to the music in a musical.

**Actor:** the artist who embodies or puts themselves "in the shoes of" a character or characters in a play or musical to tell that character's story to the audience.

**Audience:** a group of people who attend a live event like a theatre performances to watch, listen, and respond to the event on stage.

**Director:** the artist who works with the writers, actors, and designers to tell a clear story on stage for the audience.

**Stage Manager:** The artist who manages the onstage and backstage areas before, during, and after a performance.

**Costume Design:** A costumer designer chooses and creates the articles of clothing that characters wear on stage to help tell the audience who the characters.

**Sound Designer:** an artist that creates the mood or atmosphere of the play through the use of sound, sound effects, and music in a play or musical.

**Props:** Objects used by a character on stage to help tell the story. Ex: A character may use a prop like an umbrella on stage if it is raining in that scene of the play.



# The Weight of Words

## SYNOPSIS

The Weight of Words is an original musical written and composed by the students and staff of the 2011 Nova High Lovewall Project designed to stop bullying.

The Weight of Words puts a magnifying glass on the topic of bullying and its effects within a home, a school, a community, the United States, and in the world. We hear about the issues from every angle – the ones being bullied, the bullies themselves, bystanders, parents, teachers, principals, community leaders and lawmakers.

The question remains – “What will you do with the weight of your words?”

Consider the strategies the performers find to deal with bullying. You may find some that feel right for you and be inspired to address the weight of words.



# The Weight of Words

HERE ARE A FEW LINKS TO WAYS TO GET INVOLVED IN THE  
ANTI-BULLYING MOVEMENT.

[HTTPS://WWW.STOPBULLYING.GOV/](https://www.stopbullying.gov/)

[HTTPS://WWW.NOPLACEFORHATE.ORG/ABOUT](https://www.noplacementforhate.org/about)

[HTTPS://NOBULLY.ORG/](https://nobully.org/)

[HTTPS://WWW.SANDYHOOKPROMISE.ORG/OUR-  
PROGRAMS/START-WITH-HELLO/](https://www.sandyhookpromise.org/our-programs/start-with-hello/)

Assignment: Work with a partner on an internet dive to find 5 more.

( Hint: Look for organizations that end in ORG or GOV.)

List them below and briefly describe.

#HATE

#BULLY

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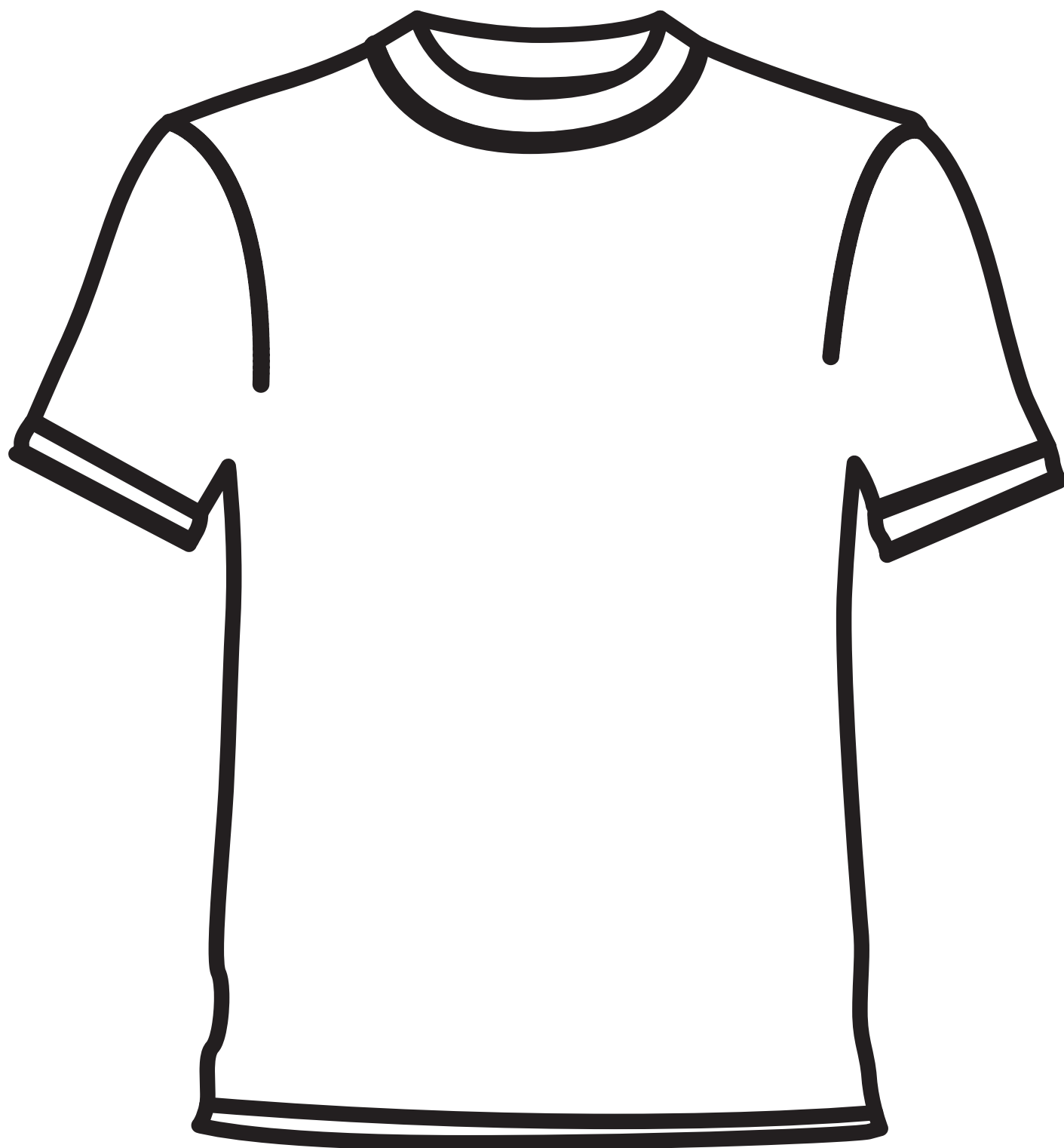
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# *The Weight of Words* **T-SHIRT** *design challenge*

Design an ANTI BULLYING T-shirt with a message that people will remember!





# The Weight of Words

## CLASSMATE INTERVIEW

LEARN SOMETHING NEW ABOUT SOMEONE IN CLASS: SEL

Today I interviewed:

Sign:

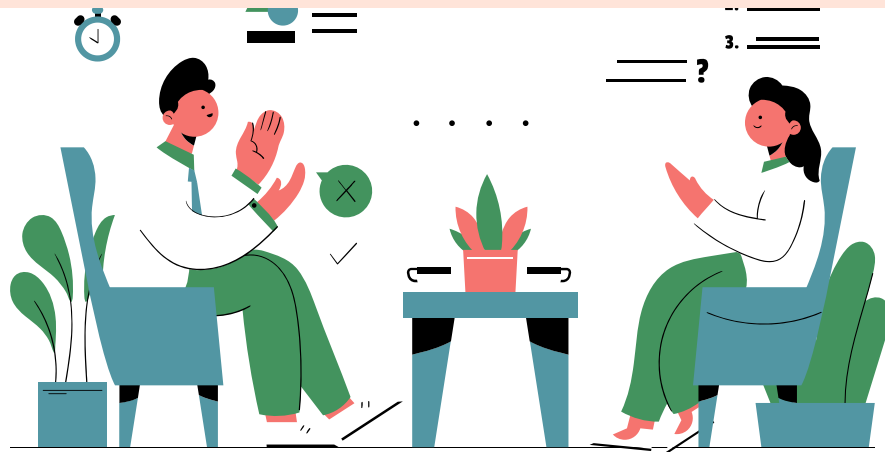
Favorite song:

Favorite book:

Favorite food and drink:

Favorite thing to watch on TV or internet (G or PG please):

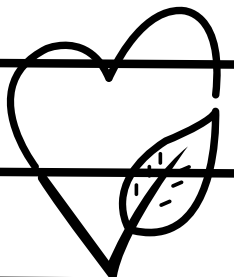
Career Goals:



# *The Weight of Words:*

## *Making connections after the show*

Identify a significant moment in the performance that was meaningful to you and explain how the WEIGHT of WORDS affected you.



# The Weight of Words:

## What's the Difference



Write a definition for each of the following roles:

A BULLY IS SOMEONE WHO...

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A VICTIM IS...

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A BYSTANDER IS SOMEHOW WHO...

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# M/H Student to Family Cooperative Activity Ideas:

- Cook a themed meal: If the play had cultural or culinary references, consider cooking a themed meal together as a family. Research recipes from that culture or recreate dishes mentioned in the play. This culinary exploration can add a delicious dimension to your theater experience and allow you to immerse yourselves further in the production.
- Watch a related film or documentary: If there are any film adaptations or documentaries related to the play or its subject matter, plan a family movie night to watch them together. This can provide additional context, offer a different perspective, or deepen your understanding of the themes explored in the theater production.
- Share impressions and discuss the play: Sit down with your kids and have a conversation about the play you all watched. Share your impressions, thoughts, and emotions. Discuss the elements that stood out to each of you, such as the performances, the set design, or the storytelling. This exchange of perspectives can deepen your understanding and appreciation of the production.
- **Remember, the goal is to create a memorable and immersive experience. Adapt these ideas based on your family's preferences and the resources available to you. The key is to have fun and enjoy the theater experience in your digs!**

## Additional Activity Ideas:

- Attend workshops or classes: Look for theater workshops or classes that interest you and your child. Participating in these educational opportunities can help your kids develop their skills, gain confidence, and connect with others who share their interest in the performing arts.
- Encourage your kids to create their own journals or scrapbooks to document their childhood memories. Take the opportunity to share your childhood stories as you help them with their own projects. You can even contribute by adding some of your own stories or mementos to their journals.
- What was your favorite song, band or genre growing up? Play a few songs for your child/children and let them play a few of their favorites for you!
- Volunteer or participate in theater activities: If your kids have developed a keen interest in theater, encourage them to get involved in local theater groups or school productions. Volunteer backstage, audition for roles, or assist with set design and costumes. This hands-on experience allows us to gain practical knowledge and further nurture a passion for the performing arts, and the whole family can volunteer with the show!

## Standards Alignment: The Weight of Words

**Standards Alignment:** The activities in this guide are aligned with the standards listed below. When teachers incorporate the arts, they increase student engagement, offer multiple points for students to access the curriculum, and provide alternate means for students to demonstrate what they know.

Florida's Benchmarks for Excellent Student Thinking (B.E.S.T.)	
Kindergarten through Grade 12/ English Language Arts	
ELA.K12.EE.1.1	Cite evidence to explain and justify reasoning.
ELA.K12.EE.2.1	Read and comprehend grade-level complex texts proficiently.
ELA.K12.EE.3.1	Make inferences to support comprehension.
ELA.K12.EE.4.1	Use appropriate collaborative techniques and active listening skills when engaging in discussions in a variety of situations.
ELA.K12.EE.5.1	Use the accepted rules governing a specific format to create quality work.
ELA.K12.EE.6.1	Use appropriate voice and tone when speaking or writing.



# My Theater Review

I saw: \_\_\_\_\_

Reviewed by: \_\_\_\_\_

This play/musical was about...

Here's a drawing of  
my favorite character:

It made me feel:

I learned:

I gave this play/musical .... stars.



**We'd love to hear from you! If you'd like to submit this review,  
please send to [jenriquez@browardcenter.org](mailto:jenriquez@browardcenter.org)**