

# The Weight of Words

## CURRICULUM CONNECTIONS



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# The Weight of Words

## How to use Curriculum Connections:

Dear Teacher,

We appreciate you!

This guide can help in your classroom, whether before or after coming to see a play or musical it can be used to highlight important concepts. The curriculum connections introduced by the Broward Center for the Performing Arts are always aligned to the Florida Standards with the idea that they introduce another tool to effectively implement engaging methods to bring the page to the stage.

Curriculum Connections improve comprehension, help students organize information, and assist students' metacognition by enabling students to check for understanding. It is designed to be used before or after coming to the theater unless otherwise stated and may contain activities for certain grade levels (this will be clearly labeled).

Curriculum Connections will always contain a reminder of theater etiquette as well as a social emotional learning activity, and a Student-Family Cooperative Activity. The activities may be re-printed for individual use, used on smart boards as class activities, or in groups. It is suggested to discuss the play or musical as a class before your field trip.

Remember to follow us on Facebook and Instagram @Broward Center Education and use the QR code (below) for our Teacher's Lounge to receive insight about discounted tickets and information for you and your students!





# Theater etiquette

It is often 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) at the end. This shows the performers that you respect and appreciate their work.

# 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.)

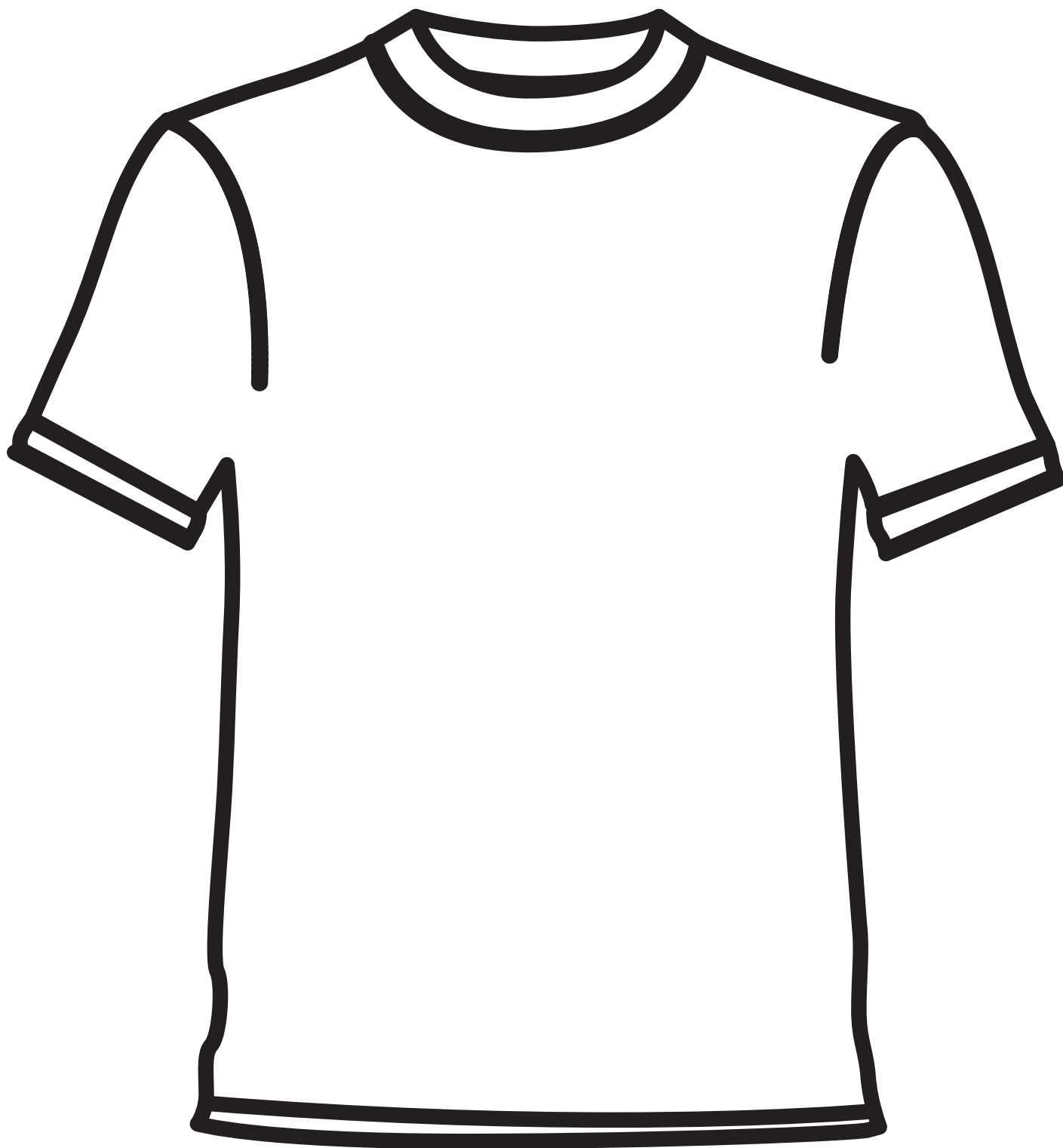
List them below and briefly describe.

#HATE

#BULLY

# *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.



# New:

Each time you submit student work,  
your name is entered in a drawing  
for tickets to a show

at the Broward Center:

Fall Show: **HADESTOWN**

Spring Show: **MRS. DOUBTFIRE**

Dear Teachers,

Thank you for your continued support of the SEAS Program. We value the preparation you make before the show to attend the Broward Center for the Performing Arts, and the introduction you forge for the students when the show has concluded to continue making connections long after the buses have returned to school!

If you'd like to share any of the work from the study guides, please use this link:

Click Here to Upload Student Work Samples:

**<https://tinyurl.com/SEAS2324-samples>**



Should you have any questions, please contact  
Lauri Foster at: <mailto:lauri.fostere@browardschools.com>

