



BROWARD  
CENTER  
— *for the* —  
PERFORMING ARTS



# STUDY GUIDE

MIDDLE SCHOOL

## Weight of Words

Nova High School

## Performance Summary

*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.

## Theatre Etiquette

(Before the Show)

It is often helpful to remind students of appropriate audience etiquette by explaining and discussing **why** these rules of behavior are important.

Audience members should:

- listen carefully to the ushers, your teachers – this gets everyone to their seats quickly and ensures a pleasant experience
- walk single-file and hold hand-rails as you use steps – this also keeps everyone safe
- listen carefully to the performers – they are working hard to entertain and inform you with lots of clues about the story
- refrain from talking – this allows everyone to enjoy the performance without being distracted
- laugh if something is funny, but not too loudly – you don't want to miss any dialogue
- 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 at the end – this shows the performers that you respect and appreciate their work

**Teacher Instructions** (After the Show) – *Choose from the activities listed on the following pages to extend student learning.*

## **Language Arts Connection**

(LAFS.6.7.8.L.3.5), (LAFS.6/7/8.W.1.3), (LAFS.6/7/8.SL.1.2)

In the boxes below, identify 1 significant moment in the performance that was meaningful to you and explain how the words affected you.

(TH.68.C.1.1), (TH.68.C.1.3)

Create your own bullying scenario – describe the characters, explain the problem, and craft a response by the person(s) being bullied. If possible, work with a partner to improvise the scenario.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_



**Standards Alignment:** The activities in this study 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 alternative means for students to demonstrate what they know.

Language Arts Florida Standards	
Grades 6-8	
Writing Standards for Literacy in History/Social Studies, Science, and Technical Subjects	
LAFS.68.RH.2.5	Describe how a text presents information (e.g., sequentially, comparatively, causally).

Language Arts Florida Standards	
Grade 6	
Speaking and Listening	
LAFS.6.SL.1.2	Interpret information presented in diverse media and formats (e.g., visually, quantitatively, orally) and explain how it contributes to a topic, text, or issue under study.
LAFS.6.SL.2.5	Include multimedia components (e.g., graphics, images, music, sound) and visual displays in presentations to clarify information.
Language	
LAFS.6.L.3.5	Demonstrate understanding of figurative language, word relationships, and nuances in word meanings.
Writing	
LAFS.6.W.1.3	Write narratives to develop real or imagined experiences or events using effective technique, relevant descriptive details, and well-structured event sequences.

Language Arts Florida Standards	
Grade 7	
Speaking and Listening	
LAFS.7.SL.1.2	Analyze the main ideas and supporting details presented in diverse media and formats (e.g., visually, quantitatively, orally) and explain how the ideas clarify a topic, text, or issue under study.
LAFS.7.SL.2.5	Include multimedia components and visual displays in presentations to clarify claims and findings and emphasize salient points.
Language	
LAFS.7.L.3.5	Demonstrate understanding of figurative language, word relationships, and nuances in word meanings.
Writing	
LAFS.7.W.1.3	Write narratives to develop real or imagined experiences or events using effective technique, relevant descriptive details, and well-structured event sequences.

Language Arts Florida Standards	
Grade 8	
Speaking and Listening	
LAFS.8.SL.1.2	Analyze the purpose of information presented in diverse media and formats (e.g., visually, quantitatively, orally) and evaluate the motives (e.g., social, commercial, political) behind its presentation.
LAFS.8.SL.2.5	Integrate multimedia and visual displays into presentations to clarify information, strengthen claims and evidence, and add interest.
Language	
LAFS.8.L.3.5	Demonstrate understanding of figurative language, word relationships, and nuances in word meanings.
Writing	
LAFS.8.W.1.3	Write narratives to develop real or imagined experiences or events using effective technique, relevant descriptive details, and well-structured event sequences.

Florida Theater Standards	
Grades 6-8	
Critical Thinking and Reflection	
TH.68.C.1.1	Devise an original work based on a community issue that explores various solutions to a problem.
TH.68.C.1.3	Determine the purpose(s), elements, meaning, and value of a theatrical work based on personal, cultural, or historical standards.
TH.68.C.1.5	Describe how a theatrical activity can entertain or instruct an audience.
TH.68.C.2.4	Defend personal responses to a theatre production.
Skills, Techniques, and Processes	
TH.68.S.1.3	Describe criteria for the evaluation of dramatic texts, performances, direction, and production elements.

Vocabulary
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Production Elements</b> – lighting, scenery, costumes, choreography, sound effects, music</li> <li>• <b>Review</b> – a critique of a performance that tells the audience what to expect</li> </ul>

# Cover Sheet

Please collect student work samples and attach it to this cover sheet. Pony all work samples to:

**KCW – 3<sup>rd</sup> floor.**

**Attention: Lauri Foster**

School Name: \_\_\_\_\_

SEAS Show: Weight of Words

Grade: \_\_\_\_\_