



Grades 6-12

STUDY GUIDE

**THE
WEIGHT OF
Words**



Study Guides are produced in partnership with Broward County Public Schools.

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: Partner Work

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: Making Connections

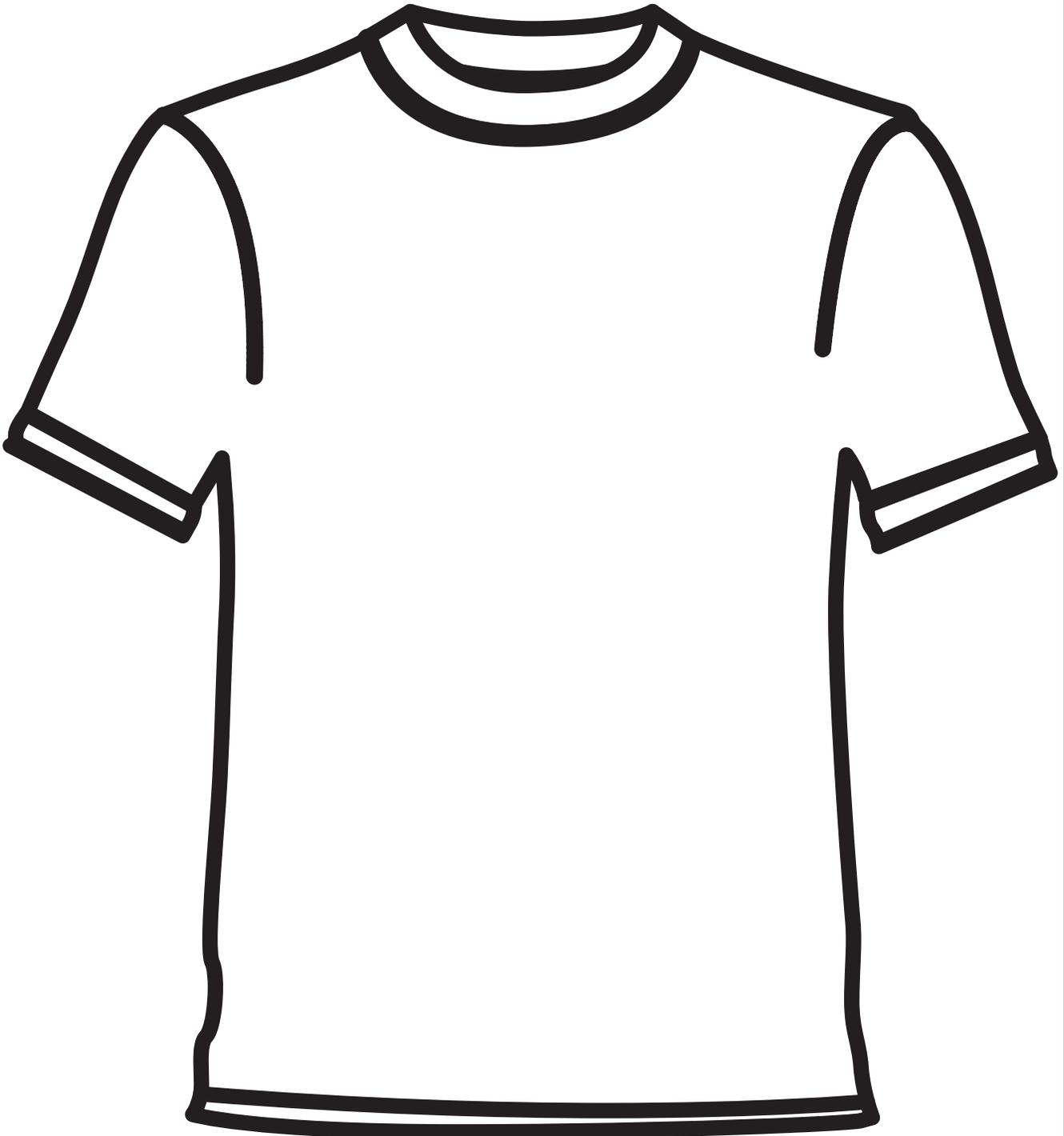
On the paper below, identify a significant moment in the performance that was meaningful to you and explain how the WEIGHT of WORDS affected you.

The image shows a sheet of lined paper with a red margin line on the left side. There are three binder holes on the left edge. The paper is filled with horizontal blue lines for writing. At the bottom of the page, there is a footer containing educational standards.

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:

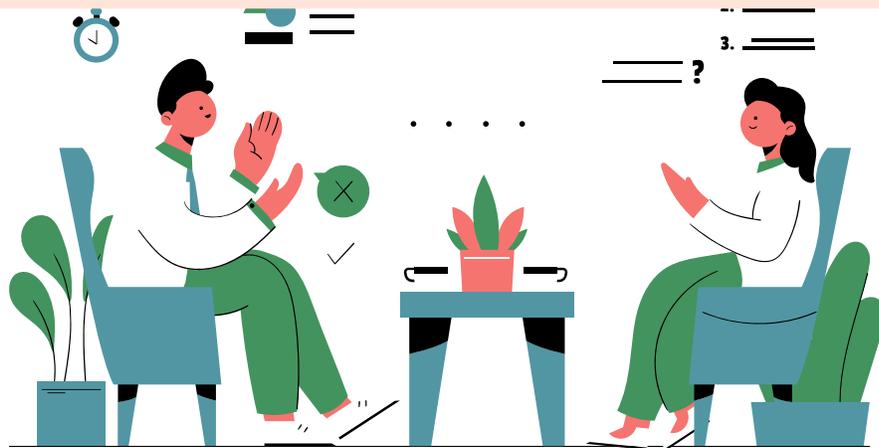
Favorite song:

Favorite book:

Favorite food and drink:

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

Career Goals:



The Weight of Words:

What's the Difference



Write a definition for each of the following roles:

A BULLY IS SOMEONE WHO...

A VICTIM IS...

A BYSTANDER IS SOMEHOW WHO...

Student Work Samples

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!

Using the suggestions and/or activity pages included in this Study Guide, please collect student work samples, and upload them using the link below.

Click Here to Upload Student Work Samples:

[SEAS Work Samples 2022-23](#)

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



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.