

# LESSON PLAN:

## LEADING WITH LOVE – THE 2024 WITNESS CONCERT THEME

### INTRODUCTION

As you start preparing students for their trip to Orchestra Hall to attend the WITNESS Young People’s Concert, introduce the concert title and theme, **Leading with Love**. Lesson activities and discussion will introduce students to a personal understanding of the theme. Students will consider why this title was selected for the 2024 WITNESS concert theme.

### PREPARE

Prepare large sheets of chart paper, smart board, or other way to record ideas and text for a Word Wall. Write **Leading with** on the top of one sheet and **Love** on the other. The charts will develop into a word wall describing student’s thoughts and insights about the WITNESS concert theme. Students will later use the word wall vocabulary to conduct other activities connected to the WITNESS Concert. Make students copies of the **Acrostic Poetry worksheet**.

### DISCUSS

Students will think critically, then discuss the meaning of the words **Leading with Love**. They will speculate about why they were chosen for the concert title.

1. Begin with the word **love**. Use these questions and prompts, or invent your own to launch the discussion:
  - Can you define **love**? Is it possible to do so?
  - What does the word mean to you?
  - Does “I love my little brother” mean the same thing as “I love pepperoni pizza” or “I love your new dress?” If not, why not?
  - What are some of the ways we use the word **love** in our society?

**Note: When the topic is as complex as love, make sure that students understand there are many right definitions and nuances to the subject. Help them listen carefully and consider and respect all ideas expressed.**

2. Look up definitions in print or web dictionaries and read them aloud.
3. On one chart, write key words and phrases students use in their discussions of the various meanings and concepts about **love**.
4. Then discuss and define the words **Leading/Lead** in the same way. Write the students’ key terms and ideas on the second chart.

### DRAW CONCLUSIONS

The WITNESS concerts combine the two words into a phrase, **Leading with Love**. What does that mean to you? And why do you think VocalEssence chose this title for the 2024 WITNESS concert?

### MINNESOTA STATE STANDARDS CONNECTIONS

#### ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS:

##### Craft & Structure:

*Interpret words and phrases as they are used in a text, including determining...connotative and figurative meanings...*

##### Writing Process:

*...use a writing process to develop and strengthen writing as needed by planning, drafting, revising, editing, rewriting, or trying a new approach...*

### DEFINITIONS ABOUT LOVE

- *an intense feeling of deep affection, to like very much.*
- *strong affection for another arising out of kinship or personal ties.*
- *“love is a feeling that expresses itself in action” (David Wolpe, <https://time.com/4225777/meaning-of-love/>)*

## EXTEND

Choose one or more of the following activities to reinforce the ideas and thoughts raised in their discussion, use key vocabulary, expand students' interpretations of the title, and express their insights about the meaning of the concert theme.



### TRANSFORM THE WORD WALL

Invite students to expand the *Leading with Love Word Wall* into a work of art with original graffiti, illustrations, artwork, text and images. Or create a new graffiti wall with new sheets of paper.



### WRITE A POEM

Distribute copies of the **Acrostic Poetry Worksheet** for students to create acrostic poems for the words LEADING and LOVE.

- An acrostic poem uses the letters in a word to begin each line of the poem.
- Each line of the poem relates, describes, or connects with the main ideas, LEADING and LOVE.
- Have the word wall of their thoughts and words visible, and dictionaries or thesauruses (hard copy or electronic) to help students search for the words and phrases for their poems.
- Templates are included.
- Display the acrostic poems on a bulletin board or classroom wall. **SEND YOUR ACROSTIC POEMS** to Rob Graham, **robert@vocalessence.com**, to potentially be featured at the Young People's Concert!

## INSTRUCTIONS FOR STUDENTS: HOW TO WRITE AN ACROSTIC POEM

The key words — LEADING and LOVE — are already written for you in the boxes on the left side of the worksheet template. Acrostics are easy to write because they don't need to rhyme, and you don't need to worry about the rhythm of the lines. Each line can be as long or as short as you need to express your ideas.

- Brainstorm/think/imagine words or phrases that are related to the words LEADING and LOVE. Look at the word wall for ideas. Jot these words down to remember them.
- Match your selected words or phrases on the lines that begin with the same letters. You can use more than one word for each line of your poem to fill in the lines of the poem. You can also use longer phrases that may connect from line to line.
- Review this first draft and adjust it to express your ideas.
- Here are two examples of Acrostic poems:

## DEFINITIONS FOR LEADING

- *Providing direction or guidance.*
- *Initiate an action.*
- *Showing someone the way to a destination by going in front of or beside them.*  
*(Oxford Languages/Dictionaries)*

<b>L</b>	inks us together
<b>O</b>	ver the years...
<b>V</b>	ibrant,
<b>E</b>	verlasting friends.

<b>M</b>	agic touches
<b>U</b>	s when we hear its
<b>S</b>	ound...
<b>I</b>	nstant energy,
<b>C</b>	larity, and wonder!

## WRITE AN ACROSTIC POEM ABOUT *LEADING WITH LOVE*

- Brainstorm/think about/imagine words or phrases related to the words LEADING and LOVE. Recall class discussions; look at the word wall; use a dictionary, ask a friend, etc. for ideas.
- As you collect words and phrases connected to the words LEADING and LOVE, write them on another sheet of scratch paper.
- You can use single words or full phrases for each line of your poem.
- Start with “**L**.” Choose a word or phrase you like that begins with “**L**.” Write it in the top row.
- Continue with each next letter (“**E**”, “**A**”, etc.), writing each line of the acrostic poem.
- Read your draft and adjust it to express your ideas and the flow of the words.
- *Acrostics do not need to rhyme, and each line can be as long or short as you wish!*

<b>L</b>	
<b>E</b>	
<b>A</b>	
<b>D</b>	
<b>I</b>	
<b>N</b>	
<b>G</b>	

<b>L</b>	
<b>O</b>	
<b>V</b>	
<b>E</b>	

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ DATE: \_\_\_\_\_