

Name _____ Date _____

Spotlight on Performance Script

With One Dream

Costumes/Prop Suggestions

Ms. Wanda Love is a bigger than life, dramatic, and loving middle school music teacher who is “lost in the sixties.” Her mannerisms, dress and every action says “hippie.” Complete with headband, long beads, and tie-dye clothes—she exemplifies the sixties. Anna, Natalie, Ted, and Charlie are all middle school students dressed in regular school clothes.

Set Suggestions

The setting is a normal middle school music class. The classroom can have musical props placed about the room. Musical symbols (clefs and musical notes) on the “walls,” classroom instruments in plain sight, and a chalk board with staff lines drawn on it. The students may be on risers or chairs.

Script Begins

Song 1: Lift Up Your Voices, p. 319

Ms. Wanda Love: Good job, musical prodigies. Don't forget to look over your pieces tonight. You know, the choral festival is this weekend. You virtuosos are going to be great! I'm going to be going back and forth to the school office making a few last minute preparations for the festival, so I expect everyone to stay focused while I'm out of the room. Look over the next piece in your folder. I'll be right back.

Anna: (*to Natalie who is looking a little down*) What's wrong, Natalie?

Natalie: Oh, nothing.

Anna: I don't think it's nothing. I think it's something.

Natalie: Well, it's just that I've been watching the news lately and it seems that there's just so much bad stuff going on in the world. It makes it hard to get all excited about a little choral festival when the whole world seems to be falling apart.

Anna: This sounds pretty serious. I thought maybe you just didn't have enough money to go to the mall this weekend. Sh! Here she comes.

Ms. Wanda Love: OK, next “Sweet Music.” Sing it like you mean it!

Song 2: Sweet Music, p. 319

Ms. Wanda Love: That was magnificent, maestros. I've got to run to call one of the festival coordinators for just a minute. I'll be right back. You can talk amongst yourselves—quietly, that is!

Ted: What's the deal, Natalie? You look like you just ate a sour apple.

Natalie: Oh, nothing. Actually, it is something. I just feel like there's so much bad stuff going on in the world. I want to do something about it. Singing at the choral festival this weekend just doesn't do it for me. I want to take a stand. I want to run for president or . . .

Charlie: I don't think you can run for President until you're at least out of middle school.

Natalie: Maybe I could be a protester or maybe go on a hunger strike. Sh!

Ms. Wanda Love: (*interrupting the impending chaos by clearing her throat*) I love this next piece. It's one of my favorites, because it reminds me of the 60's. (*she begins to wax nostalgic*) Those were the best of times and the worst of times. People did some crazy things, but people took a stand for what they believed in. I know we did. I had one dream. And that was a dream for a better world. Sing it from your soul.

Song 3: Like a Mighty Stream, p. 320

Ms. Wanda Love: (*almost weeping*) That was . . . that was . . . I just don't have the words to tell you how beautifully you sang that song. I could just weep uncontrollably this minute.

Ted: (*whispering to Natalie*) A hunger strike? I've never seen you miss a day without an ice cream sandwich.

Natalie: (*whispering back to Ted*) OK, maybe that was a little over the top, but I do want to do something to make a difference. I want to be like Ms. Love. She had a dream, a dream for a better world. Sh! She's lookin' at us.

Ms. Wanda Love: Here's another piece that takes my heart down memory lane. "I am But a Small Voice" pretty much says it all.

Song 4: I Am But a Small Voice, p. 323

Ms. Wanda Love: Sorry! Just one more stop in at the office. I'll be back before you know it! Thanks for cooperating class!

Anna: That really is a nice song. You know, the words were written by a thirteen year old girl.

Charlie: That's pretty amazing.

Anna: It sure is.

Natalie: See a kid can make a difference.

Ted: You know what, Natalie. I don't think you have to run for president, or starve yourself, or anything like that. I think you can make a difference with your music.

Anna: Ted, you're right. Everybody can have dream, a desire to make things better and you can make it happen right where you are.

Natalie: Yeah, I think I'm a better singer than I would be president. And singing's a lot more fun than starving. Sh! Here she comes.

Ms. Wanda Love: And now my very favorite, "I Hear America Singing." You know, scholars, each of you can make a difference. When we all join together, we can make even a bigger difference. Even though I look like it is, I know this isn't the sixties. I know we're not doing the same peace marches and such that we did back then, but we can speak just a loudly with our music. The message in our hearts can be carried to the world through our voices. Take a stand, reach out and do it with your song.

Song 5: I Hear America Singing, p. 327