

# WordLoveWorldLove Teacher's Guide

## Overview

WordLoveWorldLove documents the journey of children from two continents responding to the affects of a natural disaster, the South Asia tsunami of 2004.

It begins with Rose Charities and the children's stories and drawings the volunteer doctors and counselors have brought back to Canada from Sri Lanka. It continues with a dream to help those young spirits heal with a simple act of kindness: inspirational words that are illustrated as messages of hope and encouragement. The same words fill the branches of a Dream Tree to be shared between the two cultures. This simple compassionate gesture is warmly received and reciprocated with a desire to connect and spread the word, so to speak. Sister schools are created as a result. The journey begins anew with new goals, new faces and new hope for a better world as students engage in their community in a way that empowers them to be responsible citizens of the world.

## Objectives

1. To become more familiar with world social issues
2. To understand and practice the UN Universal Declarations and universal common values
3. To experience interconnectedness with other children
4. To practice empathy and acts of kindness in a variety of ways
5. To examine the energy of words and actions and be able to illustrate one's own universal language of peace and compassion
6. To recognize the different roles that global citizens play (ie. charities, filmmakers, teachers, students, etc)
7. To engage in a global or local community to empower students to be responsible citizens
8. To honour that every child has the power in their words and actions to make change in the world.

## Grade Levels

Intermediate through Secondary

## Introduction

The purpose of this documentary is to inspire dialogue and action among children. It creates opportunity for children to see the possibilities of being sensitive to others and empowering them with hope. It is a guide for children to believe in something larger than themselves, and to maintain a sense of dignity and respect for each other as is written in the UN's Declaration of Human Rights (article #1).

## Theme

WordLoveWorldLove explores how creative power is integral to the well being of the human spirit.

## Classroom Instructional Activities

- Observation
- Response journal
- Graphic organizers
- Presentations
- Cooperative teams

## Before Viewing the Film

### Strategies

#### Webbing

Create a web using one of the following vocabulary words as the center to explore concepts related to global citizenship.

#### Vocabulary

community  
peace  
reciprocation  
empathy  
values  
interconnectedness

citizenship  
interdependence  
social equality  
universal love  
empowerment

#### Discussion Ideas

1. What do we know about the power of nature (as useful to people vs destructive)?
2. How do words impact feelings?
3. List the ways people communicate with each other globally in response to disasters.

## After Viewing the Film

### Responding From the Heart

1. How would you describe the Sri Lankan children? Using only one word?
2. What did their artwork reveal (before/after)?
3. Describe North Vancouver children's artwork.
4. What word resonated with you the most? Why?
5. What or who did you identify most with in the film? Why?
6. Why is the film called WordLoveWorldLove?
7. What is the role of Rose Charities?
8. Describe the various acts of compassion in the film.
9. What do you now know about the tsunami that you didn't know before?
10. How did the Sri Lankan children benefit from the act of kindness from the North Vancouver children? And in turn, how did the North Vancouver children benefit from this experience?
11. What would be your word to place on the Dream Tree?
12. Did the film change your view of the world? If so, how?

## Curriculum Connections

### Lesson Samplers

#### Language Arts

- a) Define the quote used in the film:  
"Kindness in words creates confidence, kindness in thinking creates profoundness; kindness in feeling creates love."  
How does it exemplify the film?
- b) Select a book, a poem, or film that connects with the theme of WordLoveWorldLove. Explain your choice.

#### Social Studies

- a) Find out what role Canada plays in international global aid.
- b) Research countries affected by natural disasters. List the kinds of humanitarian effort used to rebuild the community.

#### Science

- a) Find out how tsunamis (or other natural disasters) occur.
- b) What role did trees play in the devastation of the flood?

#### Fine Arts

- a) Create your own WordLoveWorldLove word and Dream Tree.
- b) Locate a photo of Emily Carr's painting entitled "Happiness" and describe the energy in the painting.

#### Social Responsibility

In your school or community, follow through with a **collective** act of kindness with the intent to empower a group in need of support. Observe the results.

## Take Action!

1. Connect with a charitable (non profit) organization.  
Find ways to create an authentic experience over the course of a year to connect with a community where children are in need of hope and support.
2. Form a WordLoveWorldLove club.  
Discuss global social issues and ways to build bridges and awareness using the energy of words rather than money.
3. Create a Dream Tree for your school.  
Adopt a tree outside or make one for inside, and have different classes hang WordLoveWorldLove words on WordLeaves or hearts to convey messages of hope.

### WordLoveWorldLove Club!

**We are:** Kid Networkers

**Our goal:** to spread compassion collectively

**Our method:** the power of words plus a creative medium

**Our plan:**

- to discuss global issues
- to communicate with other kid leaders as well as kids in need of hope
- to offer positive creative energy  
(ie. Dream Tree)
- to connect to different places in the world
- to seek a role as a citizen of the world  
(ie. filmmaker, charity member, artist are some examples)
- to discover programs that are making the world a better place for everyone

## Fact Sheet: Sri Lanka

Sri Lanka is located in Southern Asia, an island off the coast of India in the Indian Ocean. It is formerly known as Serendib and Ceylon.

Official Name	The Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka
Flag	symbolizes the independence and the unity of the major ethnic groups: the Sinhalese (the lion) the Moors (the green band) and the Tamils (the orange band). In the corners are four bo leaves that stand for universal love, kindness, joy and equanimity.
Area	65, 610 sq km
Population	20, 222, 240 (2006 est)
Capital	Columbo
Independence	February 4, 1948 (from UK)
People	Buddhist Sinhalese (73%) Sri Lankan and Indian Tamils (12.5%) Moors (7%)
Languages	Sinhala (74%) Tamil (18%) English spoken in government agencies and in about 10% of the population
Literacy	92%
Refugees and displaced	353 000 due to war 450 000 due to tsunami
Climate	tropical monsoon
Natural hazards	cyclones and tornadoes
Land Use	fish, limestone, gems, salt
Industries	rubber processing, tea, telecommunications, insurance, banking
Export partners	US (31%) UK (11.6%)
Import partners	India (17%) China (10.5 %)
Currency	rupee

## Fact Sheet: Tsunami

- Tsunamis generally happen once every 10 years, most often in the Pacific Ocean
- A tidal wave usually resulting from an underwater earthquake
- Very long wavelengths (20 – 300 km) and can travel up to 1000 km/h); it can also be more than 30 m high
- Travel faster in deep water and steeply sloped ocean floor causes waves to grow very high
- First wave is not the most destructive and can be 10 minutes to an hour apart from each other
- Most destruction comes from the debris carried in the waves
- No tsunami warning system in place at the time for South Asia
- Tsunami warnings are:
  - 1) ground shakes
  - 2) ocean pulls back suddenly from shore
  - 3) waves can be up to an hour apart and one must head for higher ground



## Quotations

“If you assume that there is no hope, you guarantee that there will be no hope. If you assume that there is an instinct for freedom, there are opportunities to change things .... there's a chance to contribute to the making of a better world. That's your choice.”  
Noam Chomsky

“EXPLORE. DREAM. DISCOVER.”

Mark Twain

“The best and most beautiful things in the world cannot be seen or even touched. They must be felt with the heart.”

Helen Keller

“I am neither an Athenian nor a Greek. I am a citizen of the world”

Socrates

“We have learned to fly the air like birds and swim the sea like fish but we have not learned the simple art of living together as brothers.”

Martin Luther King

“In Compassion lies the world's true strength.”

Buddha

“The key to happiness is in our own hands.”

His Holiness The Dalai Lama

## Bibliography

Wanasundera, Nanda Pethiyagoda, *Sri Lanka*  
(Cultures of the World series) Benchmark Books, New York, 2002.

Walker, Niki, *Tsunami Alert*. Crabtree Publishing, Ontario, 2006

Sri Lanka. [www.cia.gov/cia/publications/factbook/index.html](http://www.cia.gov/cia/publications/factbook/index.html). 2006.

The Universal Declaration of Human Rights.  
<http://www.unhcr.ch/udhr/index.html>

## Resources

### Picture Books

S. Thomson. *Imagine A Day*  
Paul Evans. *The Spyglass*  
Ed Young. *Voices of the Heart*  
Doug Wood. *Old Turtle*  
Isabella Hatkoff. *Owen & Mzee*  
Niki Walker. *Tsunami Alert*  
Matthews, C. *The Blessing Seed*

### Websites

[www.wordscanheal.org](http://www.wordscanheal.org)  
[www.unitingtheworld.org](http://www.unitingtheworld.org)  
[www.actsofkindness.org](http://www.actsofkindness.org)

# WordLoveWorldLove

Children + Words + Children = WordLoveWorldLove Documentary  
...celebrate the power of Words!

**Avanti Pictures**

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