

# Spotlight Guide 2018 - 2019

## In the Heights

Book by Quiara Alegría Hudes

Music/Lyrics by Lin-Manuel  
Miranda

*In the Heights* tells the universal story of a vibrant community in New York's Washington Heights neighborhood – a place where the coffee from the corner bodega is light and sweet, the windows are always open and the breeze carries the rhythm of three generations of music. It's a community on the brink of change, full of hopes, dreams, and pressures, where the biggest struggles can be deciding which traditions you take with you, and which ones you leave behind. *In the Heights* is the winner of the 2008 Tony Awards for Best Musical, Best Score, Best Choreography, and Best Orchestrations.

## Activities

### Spectrum of Difference

Answer questions about the themes of the show by making a mark on the line between disagree and agree. The closer you are to either side, the more certain you are. Have friends and family also make marks.

### Write a Review

After seeing the production, have each student write a review of Orlando Shakes' production of *In The Heights*. The review should include one paragraph each for introduction, the script, the score, the acting, the design, the staging, and the audience.

### Discussion & Themes

How much is identity defined by ourselves and/or those around us? How would you say Usnavi defines his identity? How would you say Nina defines her identity?

How would you define family? Is it defined by blood, proximity, or shared values?

What is hope? What role does hope play in the lives of the members of this community in Washington Heights?

What role does hope play in your life?

*See the full study guide for expanded activities.*

## Florida Standards

LAFS.910.RL.1: Key Ideas and Details  
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LAFS.1112.SL.1: Comprehension and Collaboration  
LAFS.910.W.1: Text Types and Purposes  
LAFS.1112.RL.1: Key Ideas and Details  
TH.912.F.2: Careers in and related to the arts  
TH.68.S.1: The arts are inherently experiential.



**PG-13**

Curse words, alcohol is referenced, sexual jokes, sensual dancing, hand to hand combat

Most appropriate for Grade 8 and up. Children under 5 will not be admitted to the theater.