

# Shoes

A point of view activity for  
To Kill A Mockingbird

# How it works-Teacher:

- **Materials:**
  - a shoe, I went to Walmart and purchased the cheapest pair of shoes. I display the shoe on a bookshelf and the students throughout the year ask me about it...I just say “You will see!” It is in the back of their minds all year.
  - Images that will invoke negative remarks, yes we are pretty much setting them up to fail, but it is a lesson learned
- **After reading TKAM, walk around with the shoe and explain the rules**

# How it works-Teacher Con't:

- **Students are not allowed to talk unless they have the shoe! This must be stressed!**
- Show the image
- Toss the shoe and ask “So, what do you think?”  
Ask students questions about the picture.
- Students will say negative things about the people, don't say anything till you have the shoe back

# How it works- The Lesson

- *“Put yourself in someone else’s shoes”*
  - Explain where the homeless man came from -**Have a story in mind, give them a name**: John Matthews was in Vietnam, family was killed early on as a child, lost his older brother in war, girlfriend left him for another while he was in war...just gave up on life, doesn’t care...
  - Explain the “hooker”: Melissa Ray was in foster care where she was abused, ran away, became addicted to drugs, became a prostitute, had a child, etc.

# How it works-Student:

- Students are to remain quiet unless they have the shoe which is a visual representation of the lesson they are about to learn.
  - When you first show the image, they will be tempted to blurt something out, stress they have to remain quiet!!
- **Follow the discussion.** I have had some classes who didn't care, bring the conversation back to the book. Most classes are stunned by the people's stories, asking me if their stories are true.



Mrs. Keisha Cole











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# Quotes from TKAM

- *"You never really understand a person until you consider things from his point of view - until you climb into his skin and walk around in it."* – Atticus, Ch 3 of TKAM

- *"One time Atticus said you never really knew a man until you stood in his shoes and walked around in them."* – Scout, Ch 31 of TKAM

*“We are sun and moon, dear friend; we are sea and land. It is not our purpose to become each other; it is to recognize each other, to learn to see the other and honor him for what he is: each the other's opposite and complement.”*

**-Hermann Hesse**

