

2. Walk a Mile in My Shoes

This activity expands on the theme of predicting and empathizing.



Materials Needed:

Supplementary Resource Materials Disc - “Homelessness and Poverty” (Artwork) by Gerald Folkerts (DVD player/computer)
Worn, old shoes or photographs
Writer’s Notebooks/Journals

Display worn pairs of shoes at each table group. If this is not possible, use instead photographs of worn shoes, and/or the “Homelessness and Poverty” paintings on the Supplementary Resource Materials Disc which depict actual homeless people (and, often, their feet!)

Allow students to examine the shoes and make predictions in their table groups as to:

- Where might the shoes have traveled?
- What hardships might the owner of the shoes have seen?
- What joys might the owner have experienced in those “shoes?”
- Who could have owned the shoes?

After students have the opportunity to discuss in their table groups, ask students to write in their Writer’s Notebooks about the owner of the shoes. Students should tell the story of the owner of the shoes and explain what he/she may have gone through.

Direct students to really think about the life challenges the owner may have encountered, and to suggest reasons why the owner no longer needs those shoes.

If you choose to use the painting images from the Gerald Folkerts series, share the accompanying stories with your students after their notes have been completed.