

# ACTIVITIES FOR THOSE SHOES BY MARIBETH BOELTS Manual

## Activities for Those Shoes by Maribeth Boelts

Activities for Those Shoes by Maribeth Boelts is a heartfelt children's book that explores themes of empathy, decision-making, and understanding different perspectives. This story follows a young boy named Jeremy who longs for a pair of trendy shoes, only to face a series of dilemmas when he finally gets them. The narrative encourages readers to consider the value of money, the importance of sharing, and the meaning of friendship. To extend the lessons from the book and foster meaningful engagement, educators, parents, and caregivers can incorporate a variety of activities that promote critical thinking, social-emotional learning, and creativity. This comprehensive guide provides a range of activities structured to enrich the reading experience and help children connect with the story's themes on a deeper level.

## Understanding the Themes of Those Shoes

Before diving into activities, it's essential to understand the core themes of the book. These include empathy, decision-making, gratitude, and sharing.

### Key Themes Explored

- **Empathy:** Understanding Jeremy's feelings and perspective.
- **Decision-Making:** Analyzing choices Jeremy makes regarding his shoes.
- **Gratitude:** Appreciating what we have and recognizing others' needs.
- **Sharing and Generosity:** The importance of helping others and being kind.

By focusing activities around these themes, children can develop emotional intelligence and social awareness.

## Interactive Reading Activities

Engaging children during storytime enhances comprehension and retention. Here are some interactive activities to complement reading Those Shoes.

### 1. Predicting Outcomes

- Before reading, ask children to predict what might happen when Jeremy gets his shoes.
- After reading, discuss whether their predictions were accurate and explore alternative endings.
- This activity fosters critical thinking and anticipatory skills.

## **2. Character Role-Playing**

- Assign children roles of Jeremy, his mother, or other characters.
- Encourage them to act out scenes or create dialogues based on the story.
- Role-playing helps children empathize with characters and understand different perspectives.

## **3. Story Sequencing**

- Provide children with picture cards representing key events from the story.
- Have them arrange the cards in chronological order.
- This activity improves comprehension and understanding of story structure.

## **Discussion and Reflection Activities**

Encouraging open dialogue helps children process the story's messages and relate them to their own experiences.

### **1. Personal Connection Questions**

- Have children share times they wanted something but couldn't have it.
- Discuss how they felt and what they did.
- Questions like "Have you ever wanted something very much? What did you do?" promote self-awareness.

### **2. Moral Dilemma Discussions**

- Present scenarios similar to Jeremy's choices, such as deciding whether to share a toy.
- Facilitate group discussions on what they would do and why.
- These conversations develop moral reasoning and empathy.

### **3. Gratitude Journals**

- Encourage children to keep a journal noting things they are thankful for.
- Incorporate reflections on moments when they shared or received kindness.
- Gratitude journaling fosters positive emotional habits.

## **Creative Activities Inspired by Those Shoes**

Creativity helps children internalize moral lessons and express their understanding artistically.

### **1. Design Your Own Shoes**

- Provide art supplies for children to draw or craft their ideal pair of shoes.
- Have them explain what makes their shoes special or meaningful.
- This activity promotes imagination and personal expression.

### **2. Storytelling with Shoes**

- Use shoes as props to create stories.
- Children can choose a pair of shoes and invent a story about where they've been or who owns them.
- Encourages narrative skills and creative thinking.

### **3. Sharing and Giving Project**

- Organize a shoe drive or donation event.
- Children can decorate old shoes to give to those in need.
- This real-world activity reinforces the importance of sharing and generosity.

## **Educational Activities to Reinforce Learning**

Educational activities deepen comprehension and integrate lessons into broader learning contexts.

### **1. Money and Budgeting Lessons**

- Use the story to introduce basic concepts of money management.
- Simulate shopping activities where children decide what to buy within a set budget.
- Discuss the value of saving and prioritizing needs versus wants.

## 2. Math Activities with Shoes

- Count different types of shoes or organize shoes by size, color, or price.
- Use shoe-related word problems to practice addition, subtraction, or multiplication.
- Reinforces math skills in a relatable context.

## 3. Social-Emotional Learning (SEL) Workshops

- Conduct activities focused on recognizing emotions, sharing feelings, and practicing kindness.
- Use scenarios from the story to role-play appropriate responses.
- Develops emotional intelligence and interpersonal skills.

## Extension Activities for Classroom and Home

These activities allow for continued engagement beyond the initial reading.

### 1. Family Sharing Circle

- Encourage families to share stories about times they helped others or made kind choices.
- Create a family gratitude wall with notes and drawings.

### 2. Community Service Projects

- Plan visits to local shelters or community centers.
- Children can donate shoes, clothes, or toys, learning about community support.

### 3. Book Discussions and Book Clubs

- Organize group discussions focusing on themes of kindness and empathy.
- Compare Those Shoes with other children's books that explore similar lessons.

## Conclusion: Fostering Values Through Activities

Incorporating a variety of activities related to Those Shoes by Maribeth Boelts can significantly enhance children's understanding of important social and emotional themes. Whether through storytelling, creative projects, or community involvement, these activities promote empathy,

decision-making, and generosity. By engaging children in meaningful discussions, artistic expression, and real-world experiences, educators and parents can help nurture compassionate and thoughtful individuals. The lessons from this story extend far beyond the pages, shaping children's attitudes and behaviors in everyday life.

Keywords for SEO Optimization:

- Activities for Those Shoes by Maribeth Boelts
- Children's book activities
- Empathy activities for kids
- Social-emotional learning activities
- Kids storytelling activities
- Classroom activities for children's literature
- Creative projects inspired by children's books
- Teaching kindness and sharing
- Children's literature discussion questions
- Community service projects for kids

Meta Description:

Discover engaging activities for *Those Shoes* by Maribeth Boelts that promote empathy, decision-making, and kindness. Perfect for educators, parents, and caregivers to enrich children's learning and moral development.

### Activities for *Those Shoes* by Maribeth Boelts: An In-Depth Exploration

*Activities for Those Shoes* by Maribeth Boelts is a compelling children's book that resonates deeply with themes of empathy, decision-making, and the true meaning of value. Its relatable narrative and heartfelt message make it an excellent resource for educators, parents, and children alike to explore various activities that reinforce understanding and engagement with the story's core themes. This comprehensive review will delve into a wide array of activities designed to deepen comprehension, foster critical thinking, and encourage personal reflection, all inspired by Boelts's poignant tale.

### Understanding the Book's Core Themes

Before diving into activities, it's essential to grasp the central themes of *Activities for Those Shoes*:

- **Empathy and Perspective-Taking:** The protagonist, Jeremy, faces a dilemma about whether to buy a new pair of shoes that are stylish but expensive or to stick with his old, worn shoes. This

situation provides a platform for discussing empathy, understanding others' feelings, and recognizing different perspectives.

- Value and Priorities: The story prompts children to consider what they value most—material possessions, personal comfort, or emotional connections.

- Financial Literacy and Decision-Making: Jeremy's choice highlights the importance of budgeting, saving, and making thoughtful decisions about money.

- Community and Relationships: The story subtly emphasizes how our choices impact those around us and the importance of community support.

### Deep Dive into Classroom and Home Activities

- Story Sequencing and Comprehension Activities

Objective: To ensure children understand the plot, sequence, and key details of *Activities for Those Shoes*.

#### Activities:

- Story Sequence Cards: Create illustrated cards representing major events (e.g., Jeremy sees the shoes, he considers buying them, he debates, he makes a decision). Children arrange these cards in chronological order, fostering understanding of narrative structure.

- Retell the Story: Have children verbally or in writing retell the story, emphasizing cause-and-effect relationships and character motivations.

- Fill-in-the-Blank Summaries: Provide partial story summaries with missing details for children to complete, reinforcing comprehension.

- Discussion and Reflection Prompts

Objective: To promote critical thinking about the story's themes and personal values.

Sample Prompts:

- Have you ever wanted something expensive? How did you decide whether to buy it or not?
- How do you think Jeremy felt when he finally decided to keep his old shoes?
- What would you do if you were Jeremy's friend? Would you have helped him?
- Why do you think Jeremy's mom was upset at first? How did her perspective change?

Implementation Tips:

- Use open-ended questions to encourage detailed responses.
- Create a safe space for children to share personal experiences related to the themes.
- Role-Playing and Perspective-Taking Activities

Objective: To develop empathy by experiencing different viewpoints.

Activities:

- Role-Play Scenarios: Assign roles (Jeremy, his mom, friends, community members). Children act out scenes, exploring feelings and motivations.
- Perspective Journals: Have children write or draw from the perspective of Jeremy, his mom, or a friend, imagining their thoughts and feelings during key moments.
- Emotion Charades: Children act out emotions from the story (e.g., excitement, disappointment,

guilt) to deepen emotional literacy.

- Budgeting and Financial Decision-Making Activities

Objective: To introduce basic financial literacy concepts aligned with the story's themes.

Activities:

- Mock Allowance and Saving: Provide children with play money and a list of items to "buy," including shoes similar to those in the story. Encourage them to decide what to purchase based on their budget.

- Decision-Making Charts: Create charts where children weigh pros and cons of buying new shoes versus saving their money, fostering critical decision-making skills.

- Story-Based Budgeting: Use the story as a case study for discussing saving, spending, and prioritizing needs versus wants.

- Creative Arts and Craft Projects

Objective: To express understanding through art and creativity.

Activities:

- Design Your Shoes: Children draw and decorate their own shoes, considering comfort, style, and value. They can explain why they chose their designs.

- Story Illustration: Illustrate alternative endings or scenes from the story, encouraging creativity and comprehension.

- Emotion Collages: Create collages representing the emotions Jeremy experienced, using magazine cutouts or drawings.

- Literacy and Vocabulary Building

Objective: To expand vocabulary related to the story and themes.

Activities:

- Vocabulary Word Wall: Key words like "value," "decision," "empathy," "budget," "priorities," and "worry" are introduced and displayed for reference.

- Word Matching Games: Match words with definitions or images.

- Story-Related Poems or Sentences: Compose simple sentences or poems using new vocabulary words.

- Community and Service Projects

Objective: To foster a sense of community and giving, inspired by the themes of support and kindness.

Activities:

- Donations Drive: Organize a collection of gently used shoes or clothing for families in need, encouraging children to understand giving back.

- Thank You Notes: Write thank-you notes to community helpers or donors involved in aid efforts.

- Story Sharing: Share stories about times when community support helped someone, reinforcing the importance of kindness.

- Comparison and Contrast Activities

Objective: To develop analytical skills by comparing Activities for Those Shoes with other stories or personal experiences.

**Activities:**

- Compare Similar Stories: Read other books with themes of materialism or empathy (e.g., *The Berenstain Bears and the Trouble with Money*). Discuss similarities and differences.
  
- Personal Reflection: Children write about a time they had to make a difficult choice, relating it to Jeremy's decision.
  
- Technology-Integrated Activities

Objective: To incorporate digital tools for interactive learning.

**Activities:**

- Story Mapping Apps: Use interactive story mapping tools to plot Jeremy's journey.
  
- Digital Collages: Create multimedia presentations or slideshows about the story's themes.
  
- Online Discussions: Host virtual or classroom forums where children can discuss questions about the story and their personal insights.

**Extending Learning Beyond the Book**

- Service Learning Projects

Inspire children to engage in service projects, such as volunteering at local shelters or organizing clothing drives, to translate the story's themes into real-world action.

- Parent-Child Activities

Encourage families to discuss money management, empathy, and values at home through activities like:

- Money-saving challenges
- Shared shopping experiences where children help decide purchases
- Story-related family discussions

## Evaluation and Reflection

To assess understanding and growth, educators and parents can:

- Use reflection journals where children record what they learned and how they feel about the story's themes.
- Conduct group discussions to share insights and personal connections.
- Observe participation in activities and note development in empathy, decision-making, and financial literacy.

## Conclusion

Activities for Those Shoes by Maribeth Boelts serves as a rich foundation for engaging children in meaningful discussions about values, empathy, and responsible decision-making. The activities outlined above are designed to be adaptable across age groups and educational settings, fostering not only comprehension of the story but also life skills that children will carry into their future. Through storytelling, role-playing, creative arts, and community engagement, children can internalize the story's messages and develop a deeper understanding of what truly matters in life. By weaving these activities into literacy lessons, social-emotional learning, and community service, educators and parents can create a holistic learning experience that makes the story's lessons resonate far beyond the pages.

**Question** What are some creative activities inspired by 'Those Shoes' by Maribeth Boelts? Activities include designing your own pair of unique shoes, storytelling exercises about choosing between wants and needs, and creating artwork that reflects themes of friendship and individuality. How can teachers incorporate 'Those Shoes' into a lesson plan? Teachers can facilitate discussions about materialism and generosity, organize shoe-tying or shoe-decorating crafts, and explore empathy through role-playing activities related to the story. Are there any

recommended discussion questions for children after reading 'Those Shoes'? Yes, questions like 'Why do you think Jeremy wanted the shoes so much?', 'Have you ever wanted something really badly?', and 'How can we help friends who are feeling left out?' are great for engaging children in meaningful conversations. What activities can help children understand the story's themes of friendship and generosity? Activities such as group storytelling, sharing personal experiences about giving or receiving, and collaborative art projects emphasizing kindness can deepen understanding of these themes. Can 'Those Shoes' be used to teach about materialism and consumer culture? Absolutely. Educators can facilitate discussions on advertising, peer pressure, and the value of possessions, using the story as a starting point for critical thinking about consumer habits. Are there any interactive games related to 'Those Shoes' that children can play? Yes, games like 'Shoe Hunt,' where children find or draw different types of shoes, or a 'Wish List' activity where kids prioritize their desires, can make the themes more engaging. How can parents use 'Those Shoes' to teach children about empathy? Parents can encourage children to discuss times they've felt left out or wanted something badly and brainstorm ways to support friends in similar situations, fostering empathy through reflection and dialogue. Are there any craft activities inspired by the illustrations in 'Those Shoes'? Yes, children can create their own shoebox dioramas, decorate paper shoes, or design personalized shoe covers, drawing inspiration from the book's vibrant illustrations. What are some extension activities to explore the story's message about happiness and material possessions? Activities include creating 'gratitude journals,' discussing what truly makes us happy, or organizing a charity drive to understand the importance of giving over receiving. Is 'Those Shoes' suitable for all age groups, and how can activities be adapted accordingly? While ideal for elementary-aged children, activities can be adapted for different ages by simplifying discussions for younger kids or incorporating more complex themes like consumerism for older students, ensuring relevance across age groups.

**Related keywords:** children's books, Maribeth Boelts, activities, classroom ideas, reading comprehension, lesson plans, storytelling, educational activities, book discussion, literacy activities