



THOSE SHOES

MARIBETH BOELTS

Jeremy really likes a certain kind of shoes, and all of his classmates like them too. Will he ever be able to get the shoes? Will he learn that there are things that are more important than having the right pair of shoes?



Questions:

1. Has there ever been something you really, really, really, really wanted so badly that you dreamed about it? How would you feel if your family didn't have enough money for you to get it?
2. What is the difference between want and need? When you really want something a lot is it easy or hard to tell yourself "no" because you don't NEED it?
3. Does having the shoes change how fast Brandon T. can run? Is the main character, Jeremy, slower because he doesn't have the shoes?
4. How do you think he felt when his shoes broke? Did he like the school's shoes? How does he feel about his old ones now?
5. Were the kids in his class being good friends? What should they have done instead of laughing at him? How could they have helped him feel better?
6. How does his grandma feel when she can't afford the shoes? How does he react? Does he cry because he's upset or does he try to help his grandma feel better?
7. Is the thrift store idea good for him, for his grandma, or for both? How do you think they both feel going around to multiple stores to find the right shoes? Hopeful? Tired?
8. How does he feel when he sees his shoes? How does he feel when they don't fit?
9. When he notices that Antonio also has bad shoes, how do you think he feels? How do you think he feels when he notices that Antonio's feet are smaller than his?
10. How do you think Antonio feels when he sees the shoes? How does Jeremy feel that night after Antonio leaves? What do you think he's going to do?
11. How do you think Jeremy felt giving the shoes away? Was he feeling just one thing or maybe was he feeling more than one thing?
12. How do you think he feels when Antonio says thank you to him?
13. Were Antonio and Jeremy best friends before? Do you think maybe they will be better friends now?