



OSKAR & THE LAST STRAW
Step into Their Shoes: Social Awareness

Grade Levels: 3-5, with adjustment K-2

"Stop crying! You two don't have anything to cry about. I'm carrying a burden that no one kid should ever have to bear. I should be the only one crying."
-Oskar

OBJECTIVE

- Students will learn to understand and become aware of and their own emotions, as well as those of others.
- Students will improve their relationship skills.

MATERIALS

Black or white board; chalk or dry erase markers

PROCEDURE

1. Tell students they will now learn what it means to step into someone else's shoes. Explain that stepping into someone else's shoes doesn't mean that students will actually put on another's shoes and walk around. It means they will try to understand how another person feels. Are they happy, sad, or angry? Why do they feel this way? Kind and caring friends try to understand how others feel all of the time.
2. Write the following acronym on the board to help students remember how to step into someone else's shoes by evaluating body language, behavior, and the situation to consider someone else's feelings.

Sound of their voice – loud, quite, fast, slow, etc.

How they are acting – with their arms, legs, hands, etc.

Outer appearance – sweating, blushing, etc.

Expression on their face – smiling, frowning, squinting, wide-eyed, etc.

Surroundings – where they are and who they are with

3. Encourage students to pay attention to others and watch how they are acting. Just listening or paying attention to a person will not always tell you how they are feeling. Students need to look at every part of someone's SHOES.
4. The last step of SHOES is remembering to think about how you would feel if you were that person. Tell students to think about how they would want someone to treat them if they were feeling the same way.

5. Have students recall specific moments from the play to remember what they noticed about the characters' SHOES. What did Oskar look like when he had so much to do? How did he look when he accomplished everything on his to-do list? Have students draw pictures or get up and create statues with their bodies of what they might look like in similar situations.