

## **46 WAYS TO LOOK AT A SHOE**

**Look at your shoe.**

**Answer as many of the questions below as possible.**

1. How does it / would it smell?
2. How does it / would it taste?
3. How do you think it feels?
4. Do you think it would make a noise when touched?
5. What are its measurements? Height, weight, diameter?
6. Describe its shape, colour and any decoration.
7. Can you write a description of it, one that would give a clear picture to someone who has never seen a shoe and does not know what a shoe is? (A sketch would help).
8. Why is it the size it is?
9. Are all shoes the same size?
10. How much is the shoe's shape determined by the material used, the method of construction and the shoe's function?
11. Why isn't the shoe plain white (or black, or purple)? If it is plain white/black/purple, why?
12. What is the function of the decoration?
13. What does the lettering, if there is any, tell you?
14. Does the shoe have a brand name or model name?
15. Are these symbols, logos and trademarks important?
16. Would you still wear it if there weren't any?
17. What materials were used to make the shoe?
18. What raw material was used to produce this material?
19. Is this material a renewable resource?
20. What does this say about attitudes towards conservation in our society?
21. Why was this particular material chosen?
22. What are this material's advantages; disadvantages?
23. How might the shoe look different if a different material had been used, for example, wood, ceramics, metal or paper?
24. What can you learn from looking at the shoe about how it was made?
25. How many stages of manufacturing do you think there might be to make this shoe?
26. Have you ever seen a shoe being made? Could you make your own shoe? What does this suggest to you about our society?
27. Is the shoe practical and well-designed?

28. When do you wear the shoe? Any particular activities? Any particular time of day?
29. How often do you wear this shoe?
30. What might shoes of the future be like?
31. When was this shoe made?
32. Where was the shoe made: country and city?
33. Where was this shoe made: what kind of place?
34. How do you fasten the shoe? With laces, Velcro, or something else?
35. Where did you buy this shoe? What kind of place?
36. Who paid for it and how?
37. Why did you choose these shoes above others?
38. What does the shoe tell us about you: the things you do everyday, your style, your attitude?
39. What does the shoe tell us about the society you live in?
40. Do you think students in Moose Jaw, Saskatchewan, Bourbon, California or Perth, Australia, wear similar shoes? Yes, no? What does this tell you?
41. Do you deserve a break today?
42. How many of these shoes do you think are bought and sold across North America every day?
43. For how long is each of those shoes actually used?
44. Where does this shoe go when it's broken beyond repair?
45. Is there anything that could be done to recycle these shoes?
46. What do you think is the single most significant thing about your shoes? Why?

And now, imagine that you are a shoe and write the story of your life.