

## **PS 39 Diversity and Inclusion Book of the Month: January**

**Book Title:** *Those Shoes* by Maribeth Boelts

**Grade Level:** Kindergarten / 1st

**Book Description:** This book is about Jeremy, a young boy who really wants these cool shoes that many of his other classmates have. His family cannot afford to buy them. He learns an important lesson about balancing needs and wants. More importantly he learns about kindness and generosity.

### **Discussion questions:**

- Why did Jeremy want “those shoes”?
- What did Grandma mean when she said “There’s no room for ‘want’ around here- only ‘need’?”
- When Jeremy’s shoe fell apart, why didn’t Grandma buy him a new pair?
- How did Jeremy feel when he had to wear Mr. Alfrey’s shoes?
- Put yourself in Jeremy’s place: Have you ever had a parent tell you “no” when you wanted something, because it was too expensive? What did you do?
- Put yourself in his classmate’s place: Have you ever had something special and bragged about it? Have you ever laughed at someone else, like they did when Jeremy had to wear Mr. Alfrey’s shoes? What could you do differently?
- Put yourself in Antonio’s place: Is there something about yourself that you want to keep secret? Why?
- At first, Jeremy didn’t want to give his shoes to Antonio. Why do you think he struggled? What made him change his mind?
- Would the story have a different ending if Jeremy’s grandmother had bought him “those shoes” instead of new winter boots? Explain.
- What did Jeremy learn about needs and wants? What did he learn about kindness and generosity?
- What did YOU learn about needs and wants? What did you learn about kindness and generosity?