



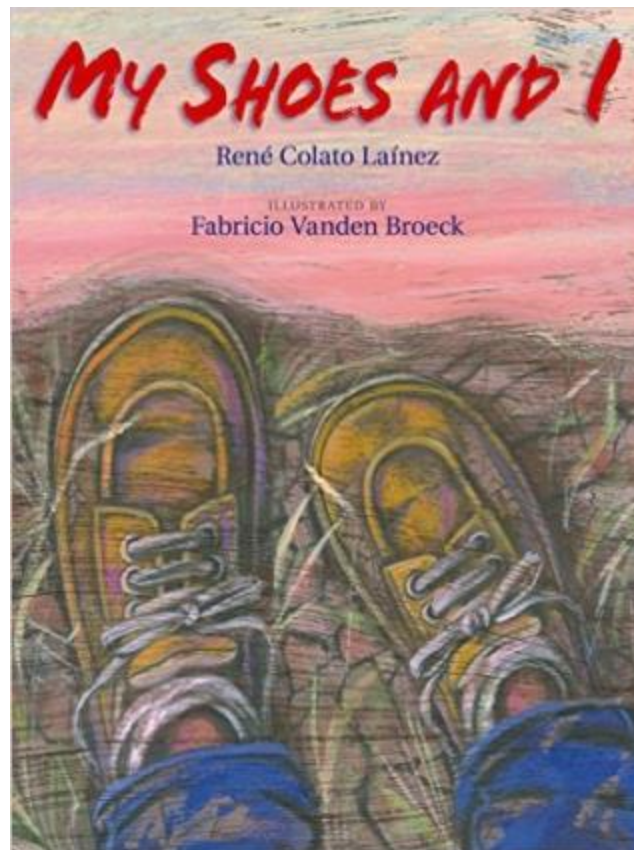
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Lesson Plan for Grade 1-4

My Shoes and I by René Colato Laínez



Summary:

My Shoes and I: is a story about a boy named Mario who is leaving his home in El Salvador. With his father by his side, he is going north to join his mother, who lives in the United States. She has sent Mario a new pair of shoes. He will need good shoes because the journey north will be long and hard. He and his father will cross the borders of three countries. They will walk for miles, ride buses, climb mountains, and cross a river. Mario has faith in his shoes. He believes they will take him anywhere. On this day, they will take him to the United States, where his family will be reunited.

Pre-Reading: The following should be done before reading *My Shoes and I* to teach students about the difficulties kids can face when they come to America illegally.

1. Begin the lesson by telling the students that they are going to be reading a story about a young boy from El Salvador named Mario who travels with his father from Salvador. The two travel across the border to join Mario's mother in the United States.

2. Tell students that the boy is an undocumented immigrant or a person that enters a country, in a way that violates the (immigration) laws of the destination country, (with the intention to remain in the country). Many countries have had or currently have laws restricting immigration.
3. Group Discussion Questions:
 - a. Why do you think there are laws about who can come to the United States?
 - b. How do you think it would make you feel if you had to keep your situation (origins) a secret from nearly everyone you meet, afraid that you might be reported? Why?
 - c. Do you think it is easy for undocumented kids to go to school, make friends, etc? Why?

PBS KIDS GO! It's My Life has some useful information that may help guide a class discussion on undocumented immigrant children.

- <http://pbskids.org/itsmylife/family/immigration/article5.html>
- <http://pbskids.org/itsmylife/family/immigration/article6.html>
- <http://pbskids.org/itsmylife/family/immigration/article7.html>

Guided Reading: The following questions should be discussed while reading *My Shoes and I*

1. Where did Mario get his new shoes from?
2. Why do you think Mario's shoes are so important to him?
3. How do Mario and his father plan to get to the United States?
4. Why are some of the difficulties Mario and his father face during their journey?
5. What does Mario imagine his shoes become during his journey?
6. What special place did Mario's shoes take him?

Post-Reading: The following activity will be completed after the teacher has finished reading *My Shoes and I*.

Activity

1. Tell the students they going to tell a story about the special places their shoes have taken them.
2. Ask students if they have a favorite pair of shoes?
3. Ask students to color the shoes on the template so they resemble their favorite pair of shoes.
 - o Use the templates on the accompanying document or create your own
4. Ask the students draw between the two shoes the most special place their shoes have carried them.
5. Ask students why they chose their particular special place, was the trip special because of where they went or because of whom they were with (or both).

Other Resources:

www.pbs.org/newshour/updates/country-lost-kids/

In between the 2 shoe prints: Draw a picture of your favorite place your shoes have taken you:

