NEWS BREAK

Article: TO SHOE OR NOT TO SHOE?

Section: THE MIX, E1

Sunday's News Break selects an article from Sunday, December 3, 2023, of The Seattle Times print replica for an in-depth reading of the news. Read the selected article and answer the attached study questions.

You are encouraged to modify this lesson to fit the needs of your students. For example, some teachers might use this as a take-home assignment and others might read and answer the questions in a small group or larger, class discussion.

*Please be sure to preview all NIE content before using it in your classroom to ensure it is appropriate for your students.

Standards:
CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RI.4.1
- Refer to details and examples in a text when explaining what the text says explicitly and when drawing inferences from the text.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RI.4.2
- Determine the main idea of a text and explain how it is supported by key details; summarize the text.

Objectives:

Students will talk about the family traditions in the home, leaving shoes off or on. They will look at recent Seattle and national polls and trends and will talk about their own family habits surrounding this topic—where did it stem from and will they carry on this tradition when they have a home of their own? They'll also discuss being flexible in certain cases and living by the golden rule.
Pre-Reading Discussion:

- What do you think the article will be about, using this picture?
- Are there any clues? What can you infer?

Vocabulary Building:

Read this sentence, what do you think the highlighted words mean using context clues? A context clue is a word or words that are hints and refers to the sources of information outside of words that readers may use to predict the identities and meanings of unknown words.

“The shoes-off rule is simply untenable.”

Untenable Guess:

Untenable Definition:

Comprehension Questions:

1. In the thick of the holiday season, many of us, whether traveling or hostng, land face-to-face with the personal details of how our friends and family members live their lives. Sharing space, we quickly find out all about their bedtime routines, how long they take in the bathroom, how messy they are and — importantly, according to many Seattleites — whether they do what?
2. In an informal Seattle Times poll that was answered by 783 readers, nearly ____% — 678 people — said they were part of shoes-off households.
3. Just _____ people said they had “no preference” on whether shoes are worn inside the house.
4. According to a May CBS News/YouGov survey, about ____% of Americans said their households take their shoes off inside.

5. Common themes emerged from the myriad readers’ considerations. For the majority of readers who prefer shoes off in the house (or, at least, some clean, indoor shoes), explanations range from ______________ reasons to ______________.

6. “We track known and unknown __________ into our home.

7. For many, removing shoes is a ______________ — either one they grew up with or learned from a spouse or friends. “I am Asian and, in our culture, we leave shoes off in the house as a show of respect.”

8. What is the Golden Rule?

Discussion Questions (small/large groups), Journal Prompts or Essay Questions:

- What surprised (or stood out to) you in the article?
- At first, I thought ______________, but now I think ______________?
- What things did you already know from prior experience?

Is your family “Team Shoes-On” or “Team Shoes-Off?” Where did that tradition stem from? Do you think you’ll carry on that tradition when you have your own home? Why or why not?

24% of people polled actually ask guests to remove theirs. Why do you think people find it difficult or awkward to ask guests visiting their home to remove their shoes upon entering?

Is it important to be flexible if some folks must leave their shoes on for medical or safety reasons?

News Break is posted to the Web on Tuesday. Please share this NIE News Break program with other teachers. To sign-up for the print replica for your class, please register online or call 206/652-6290 or toll-free 1-888/775-2655.

Copyright © 2023 The Seattle Times Company