



Dream Village
Where Kids Build Better Tomorrows



The Grownup's Guide
**Shoes and
Interdependence**
Edition



Introduction: Dream Village

At Dream Village, we divide our community into two basic groups: the children we want to entertain, educate, and inspire; and the grownups like you, who are our partners in making this journey possible for the kids you know and love.

For you, the dedicated grownup, we have created The Grownup's Guide: Shoes Edition. It's a guide for all grownups, not solely teachers, because we believe this guide can be used in any environment, from the classroom, to the community center, to the kitchen table.

Designed by Dream Village as an initial point of reference, the guide provides the kids in your life with a deeper understanding of the principles discussed in *Saved by the Well* and on our website. It will help you answer questions that kids may raise when reading the book, and provides you with lessons and activities to pursue after exploring the book and website.

Have feedback on the Grownups Guide or anything relating to Dream Village?

- Send us an email: grownupfurreal@dream-village.org
- Visit us on Facebook: <http://fb.me/welcometodreamvillage>



Inspiration: Just Shoes



Just Shoes was inspired by two things:

- 1) A conversation between the author's wife and daughter; an ongoing and for some short period of time, almost daily discussion about having Anaiya put her shoes away nicely when entering the house.
- 2) One of the author's favorite passages from "The Art of Happiness: A Handbook for Living" by His Holiness Dalai Lama & Howard C. Cutler.

Yet that afternoon, as I listened to the Dalai Lama, something happened. As "Our Dependence on Others" was not my favorite topic, my mind started to wander again, and I found myself absently removing a loose thread from my shirt sleeve. Tuning in for a moment, I listened as he mentioned the many people who are involved in making all our material possessions. As he said this, I began to think about how many people were involved in making my shirt. I started by imagining the farmer who grew the cotton. Next, the salesperson who sold the farmer the tractor to plow the field. Then, for that matter, the hundreds or even thousands of people involved in manufacturing that tractor, including the people who mined the ore to make the metal for each part of the tractor. And all the designers of the tractor. Then, of course, the people who processed the cotton, the people who wove the cloth, and the people who cut, dyed, and sewed that cloth. The cargo workers and truck drivers who delivered the shirt to the store and the salesperson who sold the shirt to me. It occurred to me that virtually every aspect of my life came about as the results of others' efforts. My precious self-reliance was a complete illusion, a fantasy. As this realization dawned on me, I was overcome with a profound sense of the interconnectedness and interdependence of all beings. I felt a softening. Something. I don't know. It made me want to cry.



Resources: Just Shoes

Dream Village has compiled the following resources to help you better facilitate discussion around the topics raised in Just Shoes, and to better equip you to answer the discussion questions that follow.

Shoe Facts:

- <https://soles4souls.org/life-without-shoes-look-benefits-shoes/>
- <https://blog.welcome.ac.uk/2014/01/22/the-medical-importance-of-shoes/>
- <http://www.samaritansfeet.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/04/Importance-of-a-Healthy-Sole.pdf>
- <https://www.newsgram.com/300-million-children-around-the-world-dont-have-shoes-idaho-inventor-kenton-lee-fights-soil-transmitted-diseases-with-shoe-that-grows>

Interdependence Curricula and Activities:

- General: <http://study.com/academy/lesson/interdependence-lesson-for-kids.html#lesson>
- General: <http://www.socialstudiesforkids.com/articles/economics/interdependence.htm>
- General: <https://www.nationalgeographic.org/activity/interdependence-and-you/>
- 1st - 2nd Grade: <http://firstgradewow.blogspot.com/2015/02/interdependence-terrariums-and-cactus.html>
- 3rd - 5th Grade: http://econ-fun.com/pdf_Files/lesson.pdf#
- 3rd - 5th Grade: <https://www.scholastic.com/teachers/unit-plans/teaching-content/interdependence-colonial-example/>



Service Activities: Just Shoes

Individual and Family Activities

Identify an article of clothing or a pair of shoes. Read the label together and teach your kid(s) how to identify where their clothes are made. Then, discuss where the materials for the article of clothing may have come from, who may have made the article of clothing, and then evaluate the steps between the article of clothing being made and it coming into your possession.

Fundraising Ideas

- Host a Community Shoe Drive - Soles4Souls is an innovative nonprofit organization that has taken the most holistic and comprehensive approach to providing shoes to people in need. Post flyers in your neighborhood, and set up local drop-off locations where people can donate shoes they no longer need. Once you've collected those shoes, you have can donate them in three ways:
 - [Find a Drop-off Location from Soles4Souls](#)
 - [Contact Zappos for Good \(who will allow you to ship 15 pairs of shoes for free\)](#)
 - [For large quantities, work with this list of drop-off locations](#)
- #withoutshoes - Spearheaded by TOMS, the buy one give one shoe brand, one day each year people around the world spend a full day without wearing shoes. TOMS will donate shoes to people in need in return for every barefoot photo tagged and posted to Instagram with the hashtag #withoutshoes. The event usually takes place in May. Follow the hashtag for details.
- Fundraising Regardless of Economic Circumstance - There is an excellent thread on PTO Today that specifically invites some excellent community feedback on fundraisers that have been successful in economically disadvantaged areas: <https://www.ptotoday.com/boards/17-fundraising/157893-fundraiser-ideas-for-low-income-students>

