

A Pair of Shoes

A pair of shoes. Seems like an ordinary item. But, I have walked through my story with a pair of them on. A pair of shoes for everyday life, a pair for running, a pair for getting dirty in, a pair for dressing up in. I use each pair for a different activity because they all explain my story in various ways.

First, my black, beat up, dusty, frayed shoelace pair of Converse. The classic street shoe that goes with anything. I have been walking around in the same style for years now, and no matter how many new pairs I get, they always end up wearing out in different ways. I find this as a metaphor for describing my twin and I. We are made up of the same DNA, yet the older we get, the less we look like each other. Yes we have the same features, but we have ended up looking different. Considering that we both do the same things, we both have similar experiences, thus changing us in related ways. In my opinion we look different, but people have trouble figuring out who is who because we are identical twins. When were younger, we had one pair of black, shiny shoes that fit, and one pair that did not. In the morning when our father would dress us, we would always race to be changed first in order to get the good pair shoes. Although, sometimes one of us would get one good shoe and one bad shoe, causing us to peacefully figure out who would get the good matching shoes. So, I could not always guarantee myself that I was going to walk comfortably that day, which caused me to want to get my own pair. Now, my pair of black Converse reminds me of those days in Kindergarten because of the significance of black shoes. However, this pair of shoes brings me through my everyday life and I can always rely wearing them everyday.

Secondly, my dark purple and blue, mud caked, low tread pair of Brooks running shoes gets me through my hardest workouts. I have been running since the earliest I can remember, because I could always beat my twin in the 100 meter dash wearing my Hello Kitty sandals from the Church doors to the car in the parking lot. Even when I played other sports, such as basketball with my family or school team, I always wore running shoes. On this particular pair, the outside has a tag with most of my personal information just in case of emergency because my father wanted me to have it. The chunky soles makes sure I have enough cushion for the rest of my body as it takes the beating of the sports, because the reason I bought this pair of shoes, was so they would fit my feet perfectly. To make the fit even more custom, I placed insoles inside the shoes that my mother had bought for me. Moreover, I love the way I feel when I run because I feel as free as a bird in flight. Also, on the back of the heel, there is an imprint that says “DNA”, which is suiting because I feel as if running is part of my DNA. In addition, my soles allow me to be comfortable and shield my body from being injured by the harshness of both life and the runs. The tag reminds me of who I am, no matter where I am. The colors remind me of my old favorite colors, blue and purple, because I always wore blue and my twin always wore pink. Lastly, the yellow accents reminds me that even in the darkest of times, there is always happiness that can be found in every situation. My running shoes remind me to live a carefree life and to not get too stuck to the ground.

Next, my hand-me-down, old, dust colored, rope shoelaces hiking boots. These shoes show me that where I thrive, is in the outdoors. I have been able to carry myself hundreds of miles in these boots, and they prove the satisfaction I get out of walking all those miles with the people I love. All my life, I have been hiking, and for half of my life I have been backpacking. I

find a sense of balance in the outdoors, which explains why I spend the whole school year studying and the whole summer with friends and family in the outdoors. The high ankle support helps me balance while I am hiking, reminding me that I will always have support. The reason that I have changed so much over my life, is because of the people I have surrounded myself with. I have been fortunate to be surrounded with positive, loving and hardworking people, who are exactly the type of people I want to walk hundreds of miles with. A majority of my closest friends in middle school, are now still my closest friends. However, just like hiking, I did not always like them at first. I have a distinct memory of not liking one of my friends and not wanting her to play Knock-out with my friend group. Nevertheless, the more time I spent around her, the more I enjoyed her presence. Like the memories that keep accumulating because of them, and like the dust on my shoes has been piling up for so long that it does not wash off anymore. The rope shoelaces tells me that there will always be people to hold me together if I break again. The dust color of my shoes, allows me to think that I can blend in with my surrounding people, so that others notice I can do everything they can do. What I mean by this, I can still climb the same mountains and walk the same paths as everyone else in my boots. Furthermore, the fact that my boots are hand-me-downs from my sister, demonstrates to me the resourcefulness of my family. These boots that I wear in the great outdoors, makes me recall all the love that surrounds me and the memories I am left with.

Lastly, my nude, shiny, size too small pair of ballet flats. I have had this pair of shoes for probably longer than I should have, but I can never let go of them. Hence, the reason why they are two sizes too small. I always have problems letting go of things, like my brother and sister going to college, getting rid of my bed that allowed my feet to hang off the end, and the

idea that I have to be perfect at everything. The shininess of the shoes, directly relates to the good things in life that can be found if one has a positive attitude. As I have been told multiple times, a positive attitude makes positive attitudes. The reason I recall this is because I have been able to achieve many things, mainly because I had the confidence that I could do it. Like when I ran for school president in grade school, although I knew that my chances were slim. Another reason is that I have a strong tendency to raise my hand in class, and I hope to share my confidence with others. However if I fail, I always know that I can fall back on running shoes to provide cushion for me. The nude color of this particular pair of shoes, displays the my feminine aspect of my identity. I have already found the sexist people in the world, in both school and in the media, and I have come to the realization that I will have to face more in the work world. But, I am comfortable with who I am because I know that even the sexist people that I will have to face, can only result in me to becoming stronger. These ballet flats I wear with pride to church and to formal events, is all the confidence I need to succeed in the rest of my story.

The five main pairs of shoes I wear to tell my story because of the comparison of the characteristics of each one to my story. I wear my black Converse to tell of my twin and I. I wear my running shoes to tell myself to never stand still on the ground. I wear my hiking boots to show the love I am supported with. I wear my ballet flats to display the confidence I have gained through my experiences. I wear my pair of shoes to tell my story.