

## Let's Go Shopping (A writing exercise in observation)

**OBJECTIVE:** This lesson will help kids become better observers, demonstrate point of view as a literary and human function, and teach them an important lesson about how to understand differing perspectives in the same situation.

Ask students to list the different "types" of people they might see at a large shopping mall on a Saturday afternoon (families, kids, security and custodial people, clerks, retired people, "mall walkers", people canvassing, etc. List as many as possible on the board.

Have the students choose one character and visualize what that character might be doing at the mall. Then adjust your classroom to accommodate movement and have the kids actually simulate their characters by turning the room into the shopping mall! Encourage the kids to really get into their roles.

After the students have been role playing for a few minutes (just to make sure they are completely absorbed in what they are doing), slam the heaviest book in the room down on the floor. Explain that a huge explosion has just occurred. Instruct the students to return to their desks and write what just happened from the point of view of the character they are pretending to be.

Allow five to ten minutes for writing and then ask students to meet in small groups to read their writing to each other. Each group should choose the "best" or most effective writing from their group.

Select a TV interviewer from the class and stage a MAN ON THE STREET interview with all of the selected authors.

Discussion may follow concerning point of view writing.