Throughout the short story The Sound of Summer Running there are several things that make the shoes significant to Douglas and Mr Sanderson. More specifically the shoes remind both characters of experiences or empowers them with confidence or imagination. Douglas recalls wading through a river, cold feet out on a winter night, and most importantly the shoes give him confidence. Mr. Sanderson is reminded of his younger past self, he opens himself to imagination and allows himself to be persuaded by others because of how comfortable the shoes are. Overall, these experiences make up the significance of the shoes.

Douglas connection to the shoes is mostly an abstract one. First he states that the shoes remind him of winter nights under his covers the story says. "Tennis shoes felt like always feels the first time every year wading in the slow waters of the creek and seeing your feet below half an inch farther downstream with retraction, than the real part of you above water (Bradbury P8). This quote shows how unique the connection that Douglas has to the shoes really is. From simply seeing the shoes, he is reminded of a vivid experience like this one. Later on, Douglas is reminded of another experience; this one is also full of vivid imagery. Bradbury writes in paragraph eight, “They felt the way it feels every summer when you take on your shoes for the thirst time and run in the grass. They felt like feels sticking your feet out of the hot covers in wintertime to let the cold wind from the open window blow on them suddenly and you let them stay out a long time until you pull them back in under the covers to them, like packed snow.” Here Douglas is relating a moment full of different feelings to tennis shoes. The hot and the cold from this experience is all being related to taking tennis shoes off in the summer and running in the grass. This is a phenomenal example of the significance of these shoes to Douglas. Finally, Douglas talks about the raw power that the give him. The story state, “He felt that this time, with his new shoes, he could do anything, anything at all,” (Bradbury, P15). This final quote shoes that not only do the shoes remind Douglas of stimulating experiences, but they also bring him courage and confidence. He believes that with these tennis shoes he’ll be able to do anything. Before that, he had even stated that with the shoes he could jump over fences, sidewalks, and dogs. In all, this all shows the strong bond that Douglas formed with the tennis shoes at first sight.

Mr. Sanderson has a much more concrete and logical connection to the tennis shoes. As he is alot older than Douglas he does not believe in a lot of the unrealistic ideas that Douglas has. Primarily, he was opened up to imagination. In the short story it says, "Antelopes? ' said the old man, looking from the boy’s face to his shoes. "Gazelles?" (Bradbury, P59). This quote shows that the shoes temporarily took Mr. Sanderson out of reality, and into a world similar to Douglas’s. He believed that Douglas felt like an antelope or a gazelle due to the power of the shoes. This highlights the impact and significant changes that the shoes had on the no-nonsense character of Mr. Sanderson. Earlier in the story Sanderson was also recalling his past because of the shoes. When Douglas asks about the last time he wore the shoes he replies, "Mr. Sanderson’s face darkened. ' Oh, ten, twenty, say, thirty years ago. Why...? ' " (Bradbury, P32). Here, the reader can easily identify that the shoes brought Mr. Sanderson some memories from the past. Whether good or bad, these shoes definitely have some significance to him. Lastly, the shoes are simply extremely comfortable. Sanderson was easily persuaded by Douglas to allow him to receive the shoes as a trade for service. The story says, " The old man held out his list. A dozen things you got to do for me this afternoon. Finish them, we’re even  
Stephen, an you’re fired." (Bradbury, P53). This quote here shoes the comfort and  
 relaxation that the shoes gave Mr. Sanderson. He was so out of the moment that he was  
persuaded to give Douglas the shoes. Clearly, this means that the shoes are very important and impactful to him.

Douglas and Mr. Sanderson are both attracted to the tennis shoes, but in different ways. Douglas has a more abstract connection where the shoes bring him fantasy like feelings. Mr. Sanderson has a more literal and physical connection to the shoes as they are very satisfying to his old, worn feet. Ultimately, the shoes bring joy, comfort, and confidence to both of the characters, and that is what makes the shoes so special.