

Study Guide Gary Soto Off And Running

In a 1995 interview, prolific Chicano writer Gary Soto noted, "Wonderment has always been a part of my life." This book surveys Soto's immense range of poems, stories, novels, essays and plays for audiences of prereaders to adults. Soto's world moves from the cotton and beet fields of the San Joaquin Valley to the blue-collar barrios of Fresno, and to urban and suburban settings in Oakland and Berkeley. Chapters analyze a wide variety of Soto titles, from his breakout works like 1977's *The Elements of San Joaquin* to the *Chato the Cat* illustrated books for children. With self-deprecating humor, particularly in his poems, Soto combines his wonderment with the trials and conflicts that beset him throughout life. In such novels as *Jesse*, *Buried Onions* and *The Afterlife*, and in his stories for YA readers, including *Baseball in April* and *Petty Crimes*, his broad array of characters confront the anxieties and annoyances of adolescence. Although he continues to motivate young Chicanos to read and write, Soto stakes his greatest claims to literary prominence through his poems, which are accessible to readers of all ages.

Only an old man who is great at gardening but bad at listening to his wife would bring the door, *la puerta*, to a picnic instead of the pig, *el puerco*, in a traditional

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story of a wise-fool. Reprint.

A senior at East Fresno High School lives on as a ghost after his brutal murder in the restroom of a club where he had gone to dance.

A Study Guide for Sandra Cisneros's "Abuelito Who", excerpted from Gale's acclaimed Poetry for Students. This concise study guide includes plot summary; character analysis; author biography; study questions; historical context; suggestions for further reading; and much more. For any literature project, trust Poetry for Students for all of your research needs.

A Study Guide for Gary Soto's "Oranges"

Pacific Crossing

Mercy on These Teenage Chimps

A Study Guide for Gary Soto's "Mother and Daughter"

Stories

Offers a collection of poetry about the trials and tribulations of two middle grade boys who have achieved great success in their studies and school sports while sharing similar comical disasters on the dating scene.

In his engaging new collection, National Book Award finalist Gary Soto creates poems that each begin with a line from Shakespeare and

then continue in Soto's fresh and accessible verse. Drawing on moments from the sonnets, Hamlet, Macbeth, A Midsummer Night's Dream, Romeo and Juliet, and others, Soto illuminates aspects of the source material while taking his poems in directions of their own, strategically employing the color of "thee" and "thine," kings, thieves, and lovers. The results are inspired, by turns meditative, playful, and moving, and consistently fascinating for the conversation they create between the Bard's time and language and our own here and now. A Study Guide for Gary Soto's "Novio Boy," excerpted from Gale's acclaimed Drama For Students. This concise study guide includes plot summary; character analysis; author biography; study questions; historical context; suggestions for further reading; and much more. For any literature project, trust Drama For Students for all of your research needs.

At age thirteen, best friends Ronnie and Joey suddenly feel like chimps--long armed, big eared, and gangly--and when the coach humiliates Joey in front of a girl, he climbs up a tree and refuses to come down, forcing Ronnie to court the girl on his behalf.

Chato's Kitchen

A Hero for Everyone

You Kiss by th' Book

A Study Guide for Gary Soto's "Novio Boy"

Local News

A hip, funny, Latino rendition of Grease, this play features three cool muchachos who come to the aid of Martin, a chicano nerd who loves a beautiful, popular girl, Ceci, from afar. With the help of his friends, Martin changes his miage and impresses Ceci and her friends, without letting on who he is. This is a problem for Ceci, because, in the meantime, she's transformed herself into a Chicana nert to win the heard of her secret love--Martin. A totally modern, totally cool tale of teenage romance.

A Study Guide for Gary Soto's "Small Town with One Road," excerpted from Gale's acclaimed Poetry for Students. This concise study guide includes plot summary; character analysis; author biography; study questions; historical context; suggestions for further reading; and much more. For any literature project, trust Poetry for Students for all of your research needs.

Attending college in the hope of escaping their difficult home lives, two Mexican-American brothers share ambitious dreams, until the outbreak of the Vietnam War forces them to choose between fighting or returning to their fields of labor. Reprint.

¡ Viva la causa! ¡ Viva C é sar Ch á vez! Up and down the San Joaquin Valley of California, and across the country, people chanted these words. Cesar Chavez, a migrant worker himself, was helping Mexican Americans work together for better

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wages, for better working conditions, for better lives. No one thought they could win against the rich and powerful growers. But Cesar was out to prove them wrong -- and that he did.

What Poets Are Like

Junior College

Jesse

A Reader's Guide to Gary Soto's Taking Sides

Taking Sides

This modern classic celebrates the tradition of tamales and family bonding at Christmas. Christmas Eve started out so perfectly for Maria. Snow had fallen and the streets glittered. Maria's favorite cousins were coming over and she got to help make the tamales for Christmas dinner. It was almost too good to be true when her mother left the kitchen for a moment and Maria got to try on her beautiful diamond ring . . . This is the story of a treasure thought to be lost in a batch of tamales; of a desperate and funny attempt by Maria and her cousins to eat their way out of trouble; and the warm way a family pulls together to make it a perfect Christmas after all. Also available in Spanish as ¡Qué montón de tamales!

For fans of Gary Soto and Matt de la Peña comes a tale of a contemporary Mexican-American family with a "spunky and imaginative heroine" (Publishers Weekly). Miata Ramirez is scared and upset. The skirt she brought to show off at school is gone. She brought her forklorico skirt to show off at school and left it on the bus.

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It's not just any skirt. This skirt belonged to Miata's mother when she was a child in Mexico. On Sunday, Miata and her dance group are supposed going to dance forklorico, or traditional Mexican folk dances; and that kind of dancing requires a skirt like the one Miata lost. It's Friday afternoon. Miata doesn't want her parents to know she's lost something again. Can she find a way to rescue the precious skirt in time? With its focus on family ties, friendship, and ethnic pride and Includes an afterword from its acclaimed the author, The Skirt is a story that children everywhere will relate to and be inspired by, no matter their background. "A light, engaging narrative that successfully combines information on Hispanic culture with familiar and recognizable childhood themes...A fine read-aloud and discussion starter, this story blends cultural differences with human similarities to create both interest and understanding."—SLJ "Light, easy reading . . . offering readers a cast and situations with which to identify, whatever their own ethnic origins."—The Bulletin "Soto's light tale offers a pleasant blend of family ties, friendship and ethnic pride...[and Miata is] a spunky and imaginative heroine."—Publishers Weekly A collection of poems describing the experiences of Mexican Americans in California A Study Guide for Gary Soto's "Broken Chain," excerpted from Gale's acclaimed Short Stories for Students. This concise study guide includes plot summary; character analysis; author biography; study questions; historical context; suggestions for further reading; and much more. For any literature project, trust

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Short Stories for Students for all of your research needs.

Fearless Fernie

Facts Of Life

A Study Guide for Sandra Cisneros's "Little Miracles, Kept Promises"

Cesar Chavez

A Study Guide for Gary Soto's "Mother and Daughter", excerpted from Gale's acclaimed Short Stories for Students. This concise study guide includes plot summary; character analysis; author biography; study questions; historical context; suggestions for further reading; and much more. For any literature project, trust Short Stories for Students for all of your research needs.

A collection of eleven short stories focuses on the everyday adventures of Hispanic young people growing up in Fresno, California. Teacher's Guide available. Simultaneous. Being thirteen is happy, sad, humiliating, surprising, wonderful, awful, exciting, boring -- in other words, full of ups and downs. The thirteen-year-olds in Gary Soto's thirteen stories experience all this and more. In one story, a girl's world is turned upside down when she visits a college campus where she expects to find a rarified atmosphere of intellectual pursuit, only to meet a tour guide who is tattooed, overly pierced, hungover, and not at all focused on academics. In another, two girls test the attraction of their new bodies by flirting with boys at a mall and then find themselves in an uncomfortable and somewhat frightening situation. The

stories in this book are about family relationships, friendships, self-worth, and questions of integrity.

A collection of forty poems explores the many faces of angst, anxiety, and misguided realities of childhood and adolescence

A Study Guide for Sherman Alexie's "Defending Walt Whitman"

Reading Raps

A Play

A Summer Life

Neighborhood Odes

Fourteen-year-old Lincoln Mendoza, an aspiring basketball player, must come to terms with his divided loyalties when he moves from the Hispanic inner city to a white suburban neighborhood. The author recalls his childhood in Fresno, California, in the 1950s and 1960s, recreating the sounds, and smells of his experience in a working-class Mexican-American community.

A Study Guide for Gary Soto's "Oranges," excerpted from Gale's acclaimed Poetry for Students concise study guide includes plot summary; character analysis; author biography; study questions; historical context; suggestions for further reading; and much more. For any literature project, Poetry for Students for all of your research needs.

In a prose that is so beautiful it is poetry, we see the world of growing up and going somewhat through the dust and heat of Fresno's industrial side and beyond: It is a boy's coming of age in a barrio, parochial school, attending church, public summer school, and trying to fall out of love. He can join in a Little League baseball team. His is a clarity that rings constantly through the wa-

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and wry reality of these sometimes humorous, sometimes tragic, always human remembrance

A Career in Poetry and Prose

Nerdlandia

The Afterlife

Living Up The Street

Gary Soto

A Study Guide for Gary Soto's "Broken Chain" Gale, Cengage Learning

What do Gaby Lopez, Michael Robles, and Cynthia Rodriguez have in common? These three kids join other teens and tweens in Gary Soto's new short story collection, in which the hard-knock facts of growing up are captured with humor and poignance. Filled with annoying siblings, difficult parents, and first loves, these stories are a masterful reminder of why adolescence is one of the most frustrating and fascinating times of life.

To get the "ratoncitos," little mice, who have moved into the barrio to come to his house, Chato the cat prepares all kinds of good food: fajitas, frijoles, salsa, enchiladas, and more.

"An introduction to Gary Soto's novel Taking sides for high school students, which includes biographical background on the author, explanations of various literary devices and techniques, and literary criticism for the novice reader"--Provided by publisher.

Baseball in April and Other Stories

Crazy Weekend

The Skirt

Summer on Wheels

New Poems from Shakespeare's Line

A collection of thirteen short stories about the everyday lives of Mexican American young people in California's Central Valley. Offering 100 ready-made book club instructions for popular children's and YA titles, this guide provides comprehensive background information needed to conduct lively book discussions for four types of family-oriented book clubs--family, mother/daughter, father/son, and readers' rap--as well as a book club for kids only. Perfect for public library programs and after-school book clubs, this is a one-stop resource, with practical, ready-made plans that can easily be adapted to multiple environments.

Hector and Mando, two Chicano seventh graders from East Los Angeles, visit Hector's uncle in Fresno and find plenty of excitement after they witness a robbery and are chased by the dim-witted criminals.

Fourteen-year-old Mexican American Lincoln Mendoza spends a

summer with a host family in Japan, encountering new experiences and making new friends.

A Study Guide for Gary Soto's "Broken Chain"

The Old Man and His Door

Up and Down with the Writing Life

Novio Boy

New and Selected Poems (Contemporary American Poetry, Poetry Books for Teens and Adults)

Hector and his best friend Mondo enjoy many exciting adventures when they take a six-day bike trip from their East Los Angeles neighborhood to the Santa Monica beach during summer vacation.

Rudy anxiously prepares for and then goes out on a first date with an attractive girl who is older than he is.

Twenty-one poems about growing up in an Hispanic neighborhood, highlighting the delights in such everyday items as sprinklers, the park, the library, and pomegranates.

When nineteen-year-old Eddie drops out of college, he struggles to find a place for himself as a Mexican American living in a violence-infested neighborhood of Fresno, California.

Black Hair

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A Study Guide for Gary Soto's "Small Town with One Road"

A Book Club Guide for Librarians, Kids, and Families

A Study Guide for Sandra Cisneros's "Abuelito Who"

Hanging Out with Fernie and Me

Discusses the life and work of the Mexican American author, including his writing process, themes, and a critical discussion of his books.

Gary Soto is a widely published author of children's and young adult fiction, and he is an acclaimed poet--often referred to as one of the nation's first Chicano poets. With a sharp sense of storytelling and a sly wit, *What Poets Are Like* is a memoir of the writing life that shares the keen observation, sense of self and humor of such writers as Sherman Alexie and Nora Ephron. In some 60 short episodes, this book captures moments of a writer's inner and public life, close moments with friends and strangers, occasional reminders of a poet's generally low place in the cultural hierarchy; time spent with cats; the curious work of writing. He tells the stories of his time spent in bookstores and recounts the glorious, then tragic, arc of Cody's Bookstore in Berkeley, ending with the author whose scheduled event fell on the day after the business shut down, but who stood outside the locked door and read aloud just the same. As all writers do, Soto suffers the slings and arrows of rejection, often from unnamed Midwest poetry journals, and seeks the solace of a friendly dog at such moments. Soto jabs at the crumbs of reward available to writers--a prize nomination here, a magazine

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interview there--and notes the toll they take on a frail ego. The pleasure Soto takes in the written word, a dose of comic relief plus his appreciation of the decisive moment in life make this an engaging and readable writer's confession.

Hey 13!

Buried Onions

Too Many Tamales