

gary soto the jacket

gary soto the jacket is a widely studied short story that explores themes of identity, poverty, and adolescence. Written by acclaimed author Gary Soto, “The Jacket” draws readers into the emotional journey of a young boy who struggles with self-image and the impact of socioeconomic status. This article provides a comprehensive analysis of the story, including its plot, major themes, literary elements, and the significance of the titular jacket. Readers will gain insight into Soto’s writing style, the story’s cultural relevance, and its lasting influence in literature and education. Whether you are a student, teacher, or literature enthusiast, this guide will deepen your understanding of “The Jacket” and its place in Gary Soto’s body of work. Continue reading for a detailed exploration, including a summary, character analysis, thematic discussion, and more, all optimized for those seeking knowledge about gary soto the jacket.

- Summary of “The Jacket” by Gary Soto
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- Gary Soto’s Writing Style and Influence
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Summary of “The Jacket” by Gary Soto

Gary Soto’s “The Jacket” is a poignant short story centered on a young boy who receives an ugly, oversized green jacket from his mother. The protagonist had hoped for a stylish, popular jacket, but instead receives one that becomes a symbol of his family’s financial struggles. The story unfolds with the boy navigating the social and emotional challenges brought on by wearing the jacket to school, feeling embarrassed and isolated. Soto’s narrative captures the internal conflict and self-consciousness experienced during adolescence, highlighting how a simple piece of clothing can shape one’s self-esteem and interactions with peers.

Set in a working-class neighborhood, “The Jacket” unfolds through the eyes of the narrator, who faces ridicule and exclusion because of his appearance. The emotional impact of the jacket is evident throughout the story, as the boy associates it with his failures and struggles. Soto’s vivid descriptions and authentic voice make the story relatable to young readers, while also offering a powerful commentary on materialism, belonging, and the complexities of growing up with limited resources.

Major Themes in “The Jacket”

Identity and Self-Image

A central theme in Gary Soto's *The Jacket* is the exploration of identity and self-image. The protagonist's feelings about the jacket mirror his insecurities and desire to fit in with his peers. The story illustrates how external factors, such as clothing and appearance, can deeply affect one's sense of self, especially during adolescence. Soto's portrayal of the narrator's internal struggle is universal, making the story resonate across cultures and generations.

Poverty and Socioeconomic Status

Another prominent theme in “The Jacket” is poverty and its impact on the lives of young people. The narrator's family cannot afford a new, fashionable jacket, which exposes the economic constraints they face. This theme is illustrated through the boy's embarrassment and longing for acceptance, as well as the tension between his wishes and his mother's practicality. Soto sensitively depicts the realities of growing up in a low-income household, emphasizing empathy, resilience, and community.

Acceptance and Belonging

The story also addresses the universal need for acceptance and belonging. The narrator's desire for a different jacket reflects his wish to be liked and respected by his peers. The jacket becomes a barrier to social integration, highlighting the pressures of conformity and the pain of exclusion. “The Jacket” encourages readers to consider the value of empathy and the importance of looking beyond superficial judgments.

Character Analysis

The Protagonist: A Boy's Emotional Journey

The protagonist of “The Jacket” is a young, unnamed boy whose experiences form the heart of the story. Through his perspective, readers witness the vulnerability and complexity of adolescence. He is portrayed as introspective, sensitive, and aware of his surroundings. His relationship with the jacket underscores his struggle with self-acceptance and his yearning for approval.

The Mother: Practicality and Sacrifice

The mother in Gary Soto's *The Jacket* is a figure of practicality and sacrifice. She purchases the jacket out of necessity, prioritizing function over style to protect her son from the cold. Although her

decision is well-intentioned, it unintentionally contributes to the boy's social challenges. Her role highlights the difficult choices parents make when resources are limited, and her love is evident in her actions, even if misunderstood.

Supporting Characters: Peers and School Environment

The story's supporting characters, including the narrator's classmates and teachers, contribute to the social dynamics that shape his experience. Peers' reactions to the jacket—ranging from indifference to ridicule—underscore the pressures of adolescent social hierarchies. The school setting amplifies the protagonist's sense of isolation, making his emotional journey more poignant.

- The protagonist's struggle is relatable to many readers.
- The mother embodies care and practicality in a challenging situation.
- Supporting characters highlight the impact of peer perception.

Symbolism of the Jacket

The Jacket as a Metaphor

In Gary Soto's "The Jacket," the garment itself is a powerful symbol, representing more than just clothing. For the narrator, it embodies his family's financial hardship, his social alienation, and his internal struggle with self-worth. The jacket becomes a metaphor for the burdens carried during adolescence and the longing for something better. Its persistent presence in the boy's life serves as a reminder of both his challenges and his resilience.

Emotional Weight and Transformation

As the story progresses, the jacket's symbolism deepens. It is associated with the protagonist's failures, discomfort, and feelings of inadequacy. However, by the end of the story, the boy begins to accept the jacket and, by extension, himself. This transformation highlights the journey from rejection to acceptance—a core message in Soto's writing.

1. The jacket symbolizes poverty and socioeconomic challenges.
2. It represents the protagonist's sense of isolation and longing for acceptance.
3. The jacket's transformation mirrors the protagonist's emotional growth.

Gary Soto's Writing Style and Influence

Vivid Imagery and Authentic Voice

Gary Soto is known for his vivid imagery and authentic narrative voice. In "The Jacket," Soto's descriptive language brings the protagonist's emotions and surroundings to life. His straightforward style resonates with young readers, making complex themes accessible and relatable. Soto's use of sensory details and colloquial expressions enhances the story's realism and emotional impact.

Cultural Relevance and Representation

Soto's work often reflects the experiences of Mexican-American youth and working-class families. "The Jacket" is notable for its cultural authenticity, offering representation to those who may not often see their stories in mainstream literature. The story's setting, characters, and themes provide valuable insight into the challenges faced by marginalized communities, fostering empathy and understanding.

Influence in Contemporary Literature

Gary Soto's influence extends beyond "The Jacket" into broader conversations about diversity and inclusion in literature. His stories are frequently used in classrooms to promote cultural awareness and social-emotional learning. Soto's work has inspired writers and educators to embrace storytelling that reflects the richness of diverse experiences.

Educational Significance and Classroom Use

Teaching Themes and Literary Devices

"The Jacket" is a popular choice in educational settings due to its relatable themes and literary quality. Teachers use the story to discuss topics such as identity, empathy, and socioeconomic issues. Soto's use of symbolism, characterization, and first-person narration provides ample material for literary analysis and classroom discussion.

Promoting Empathy and Understanding

By reading "The Jacket," students are encouraged to reflect on their own experiences and consider the challenges faced by others. The story promotes empathy, critical thinking, and self-awareness.

Its accessible language and universal themes make it suitable for a wide range of grade levels and diverse student populations.

Classroom Activities and Discussion Questions

Educators often pair “The Jacket” with activities that foster engagement and deeper understanding. These may include personal reflection essays, role-playing, and group discussions on peer pressure and identity. The story’s relevance to real-life situations makes it a powerful tool for teaching social-emotional skills.

- Literary analysis of symbolism and character development.
- Discussion of socioeconomic themes in literature.
- Empathy-building exercises for students.
- Creative writing prompts inspired by the story’s themes.

Frequently Asked Questions

Q: Who is the author of “The Jacket”?

A: Gary Soto, an acclaimed Mexican-American writer, is the author of “The Jacket.” He is known for his works that explore themes of identity, poverty, and cultural heritage.

Q: What is the main theme of “The Jacket” by Gary Soto?

A: The main theme centers on identity and self-image, with additional emphasis on poverty, acceptance, and the impact of socioeconomic status on adolescence.

Q: Why is the jacket important in the story?

A: The jacket is a central symbol representing the protagonist’s struggles with poverty, self-esteem, and social acceptance. It reflects both the emotional burdens and growth experienced throughout the story.

Q: How does Gary Soto use symbolism in “The Jacket”?

A: Soto uses the jacket as a metaphor for the protagonist’s challenges and transformation, illustrating how external objects can represent internal conflicts and growth.

Q: What age group is “The Jacket” suitable for?

A: “The Jacket” is commonly taught in middle school and high school due to its relatable themes and accessible language, but it can be appreciated by readers of all ages.

Q: How does the story “The Jacket” address social issues?

A: The story addresses social issues such as poverty, peer pressure, and the desire for acceptance, encouraging readers to reflect on empathy and understanding.

Q: What literary devices are used in “The Jacket”?

A: Gary Soto employs literary devices such as symbolism, imagery, characterization, and first-person narration to enhance the emotional impact and depth of the story.

Q: How can teachers use “The Jacket” in the classroom?

A: Teachers can use the story to facilitate discussions on identity, socioeconomic challenges, and empathy, as well as for literary analysis and creative writing assignments.

Q: What is the cultural significance of Gary Soto’s writing?

A: Soto’s writing provides representation for Mexican-American and working-class experiences, contributing to diversity and inclusion in contemporary literature.

Q: How does the protagonist change by the end of the story?

A: By the end of “The Jacket,” the protagonist moves toward acceptance of both the jacket and himself, reflecting emotional growth and resilience.

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Gary Soto's "The Jacket": A Deep Dive into Poverty,

Desire, and Coming-of-Age

Gary Soto's "The Jacket" isn't just a short story; it's a poignant exploration of childhood poverty, the yearning for acceptance, and the complexities of self-worth. This blog post will delve into the nuances of this powerful piece, analyzing its themes, character development, and enduring relevance. We'll explore the symbolism, examine the narrative structure, and ultimately understand why "The Jacket" continues to resonate with readers of all ages. Get ready to unpack the layers of this seemingly simple yet deeply impactful story.

The Shame of Secondhand Clothing: Understanding the Jacket's Symbolism

The titular jacket, a secondhand garment passed down from an older cousin, becomes a powerful symbol throughout the story. It isn't just a piece of clothing; it represents the narrator's socioeconomic status and the resulting shame he feels. The jacket's worn-out state, its ill-fitting nature, and its overall drabness all contribute to the narrator's feelings of inadequacy and his desperate desire to blend in. It's a stark reminder of his family's financial struggles, a constant visual representation of his difference from his wealthier classmates. This isn't simply about material possessions; it's about the emotional weight carried by the visible markers of poverty.

Character Development: A Boy's Struggle for Acceptance

Gary Soto masterfully crafts a relatable protagonist. The young narrator's internal conflict is palpable. His desire for acceptance is juxtaposed with his self-consciousness, creating a nuanced and believable character. We witness his internal struggle to reconcile his pride with his need to fit in. He dreams of the day he can shed the jacket and its associated shame, hoping to find acceptance and belonging. The story's strength lies in its portrayal of a universal human experience: the longing to belong, regardless of social standing.

Narrative Structure and Point of View: A First-Person Perspective

Soto employs a first-person narrative, allowing readers intimate access to the narrator's thoughts and feelings. This perspective enhances the emotional impact of the story, creating a sense of empathy and understanding. We experience the narrator's shame and humiliation directly, feeling his vulnerability and the weight of his social anxieties. The narrative unfolds chronologically, building tension as the story progresses, culminating in the climax of the jacket's eventual destruction. This straightforward structure effectively conveys the narrator's emotional journey.

Themes of Poverty and Class: A Social Commentary

"The Jacket" subtly yet powerfully addresses the pervasive issue of poverty and its impact on childhood. The story isn't overtly political; instead, it uses the jacket as a metaphor for the social inequalities that permeate everyday life. The narrator's experiences resonate with readers who have experienced similar feelings of being marginalized or excluded due to economic disparities. Soto subtly critiques a society that often judges individuals based on superficial appearances, highlighting the deeper issues of classism and social stratification.

The Climax and Resolution: Acceptance Through Self-Discovery

The climax of the story, the deliberate destruction of the jacket, is not just an act of defiance but a symbolic representation of the narrator's coming-of-age. It signifies his gradual acceptance of his circumstances and his growing self-awareness. By discarding the jacket, he's not merely discarding a piece of clothing; he's letting go of the shame and self-doubt that had held him captive. This act of self-liberation marks a crucial transition in his personal journey. The story concludes not with a grand resolution, but with a quiet understanding, a silent acceptance of his reality.

Enduring Relevance: A Timeless Tale of Self-Acceptance

"The Jacket" transcends its specific setting and time period. The themes of poverty, social acceptance, and self-discovery remain incredibly relevant today. The story continues to resonate because it tackles universal human experiences, capturing the vulnerabilities and aspirations of childhood with remarkable sensitivity and honesty. It reminds us of the importance of empathy and understanding, urging us to look beyond superficial appearances and appreciate the inherent worth of every individual.

Conclusion:

Gary Soto's "The Jacket" is more than just a story about a secondhand garment; it's a powerful exploration of childhood, poverty, and the journey towards self-acceptance. Through evocative language and a relatable protagonist, Soto crafts a narrative that continues to resonate with readers, prompting reflection on social inequalities and the enduring human need for belonging. Its lasting impact lies in its ability to connect with readers on an emotional level, reminding us of the importance of empathy and understanding in navigating the complexities of life.

FAQs:

1. What is the main symbol in "The Jacket"? The jacket itself serves as the primary symbol, representing poverty, shame, and the narrator's desire for acceptance.

2. What is the significance of the jacket's destruction? The destruction of the jacket symbolizes the narrator's overcoming of his shame and his acceptance of himself and his circumstances.
3. How does the first-person narrative enhance the story? The first-person perspective allows the reader to intimately experience the narrator's emotions and thoughts, creating empathy and understanding.
4. What are the major themes explored in the story? Key themes include poverty, class consciousness, self-acceptance, and the search for belonging.
5. What makes "The Jacket" a timeless story? Its exploration of universal human experiences, such as the desire for belonging and overcoming adversity, ensures its relevance across time and cultures.

gary soto the jacket: *Gary Soto* Tamra B. Orr, 2004-12-15 Discusses the life and work of the Mexican American author, including his writing process, themes, and a critical discussion of his books.

gary soto the jacket: The Jacket Andrew Clements, 2002-02 An incident at school forces sixth grader Phil Morelli, a white boy, to become aware of racial discrimination and segregation, and to seriously consider if he himself is prejudiced.

gary soto the jacket: The Effects of Knut Hamsun on a Fresno Boy Gary Soto, 2000 The Chicano writer presents forty-eight short essays and memoir pieces set in his hometown of Fresno, California, and in the San Francisco Bay area.

gary soto the jacket: A Summer Life Gary Soto, 1991-08-01 Gary Soto writes that when he was five what I knew best was at ground level. In this lively collection of short essays, Soto takes his reader to a ground-level perspective, resreating in vivid detail the sights, sounds, smells, and textures he knew growing up in his Fresno, California, neighborhood. The things of his boyhood tie it all together: his Buddha splashed with gold, the taps of his shoes and the engines of sparks that lived beneath my soles, his worn tennies smelling of summer grass, asphalt, the moist sock breathing the defeat of baseball. The child's world is made up of small things--small, very important things.

gary soto the jacket: Living Up The Street Gary Soto, 1992-02-01 In a prose that is so beautiful it is poetry, we see the world of growing up and going somewhere through the dust and heat of Fresno's industrial side and beyond: It is a boy's coming of age in the barrio, parochial school, attending church, public summer school, and trying to fall out of love so he can join in a Little League baseball team. His is a clarity that rings constantly through the warmth and wry reality of these sometimes humorous, sometimes tragic, always human remembrances.

gary soto the jacket: Petty Crimes Gary Soto, 1998 A hard-hitting short story collection takes a hard look at teens and preteens on the edge.

gary soto the jacket: *Afterlife* Gary Soto, 2005-03 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.

gary soto the jacket: *Jesse* Gary Soto, 2006 Two Mexican American brothers hope that junior college will help them escape their heritage of tedious physical labor.

gary soto the jacket: Local News Gary Soto, 2003 In thirteen stories full of wit and energy, Gary Soto illuminates the ordinary lives of young people. Meet Angel, who would rather fork over twenty bucks than have photos of his naked body plastered all over school; Philip, who discovers he has a mechanical mind, whatever that means; Estela, known as Stinger, who rules Jos 's heart and the racquetball court; and many other kids, all of them with problems as big as only a preteen can make them. Funny, touching, and wholly original, Local News is Gary Soto in top form.

gary soto the jacket: Nerdlandia Gary Soto, 1999-07-19 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.

gary soto the jacket: If the Shoe Fits Jane B. Mason, Sarah Hines Stephens, 2004 Ella and her new friends go through Princess School.

gary soto the jacket: Buried Onions Gary Soto, 2006 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.

gary soto the jacket: The Skirt Gary Soto, 1997-04-01 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. 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

gary soto the jacket: Burro Genius Victor Villaseñor, 2008-07-08 Standing at the podium, Victor Villaseñor looked at the group of educators amassed before him, and his mind flooded with childhood memories of humiliation and abuse at the hands of his teachers. He became enraged. With a pounding heart, he began to speak of these incidents. When he was through, to his great disbelief he received a standing ovation. Many in the audience could not contain their own tears. So begins the passionate, touching memoir of Victor Villaseñor. Highly gifted and imaginative as a child, Villaseñor coped with an untreated learning disability (he was finally diagnosed, at the age of forty-four, with extreme dyslexia) and the frustration of growing up Latino in an English-only American school in the 1940s. Despite teachers who beat him because he could not speak English, Villaseñor clung to his dream of one day becoming a writer. He is now considered one of the premier writers of our time.

gary soto the jacket: The Elements of San Joaquin Gary Soto, 2018-04-03 A timely new edition of a pioneering work in Latino literature, National Book Award nominee Gary Soto's first collection (originally published in 1977) draws on California's fertile San Joaquin Valley, the people, the place, and the hard agricultural work done there by immigrants. In these poems, joy and anger, violence and hope are placed in both the metaphorical and very real circumstances of the Valley. Rooted in personal experiences—of the poet as a young man, his friends, family, and neighbors—the poems are spare but expansive, with Soto's voice as important as ever. This welcome new edition has been expanded with a crucial selection of complementary poems (some previously unpublished) and a new introduction by the author.

gary soto the jacket: Refresh, Refresh Benjamin Percy, 2010-09-28 The war in Iraq empties the small town of Tumalo, Oregon, of men—of fathers—leaving their sons to fight among themselves. But the boys' bravado fades at home when, alone, they check e-mail again and again for word from their fathers at the front. Often from fractured homes and communities, the young men in these

breathless stories do the unthinkable to prove to themselves—to everyone—that they are strong enough to face the heartbreak in this world. Set in rural Oregon with the shadow of the Cascade Mountains hanging over them, these stories bring you face-to-face with a mad bear, a house with a basement that opens up into a cave, a nuclear meltdown that renders the Pacific Northwest into a contemporary Wild West. Refresh, Refresh by Benjamin Percy is a bold, fiery, and unforgettable collection that deals with vital issues of our time.

gary soto the jacket: Accidental Love Gary Soto, 2006 The award-winning author of *Baseball in April* and *Other Stories* deftly captures all the angst, expectation, and humor that comes with first love in this swift, lighthearted romance.

gary soto the jacket: Paul's Case Willa Cather, 2022-06-03 Paul is a schoolboy, described as tall and thin with strange eyes. He is facing the headmaster and several of his teachers, with whom he does not have a good relationship. All of them, in one way or another, find him difficult and disturbing to teach.

gary soto the jacket: Gary Soto Ron McFarland, 2022-08-08 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.

gary soto the jacket: Gary Soto Gary Soto, 1995 Soto writes with a pure sweetness free of sentimentality that is almost extraordinary in modern American poetry. -- Andrew Hudgins. Soto insists on the possibility of a redemptive power, and he celebrates the heroic, quixotic capacity for survival in human beings and the natural world. -- Publishers Weekly. Soto has it all -- the learned craft, the intrinsic abilities with language, a fascinating autobiography, and the storyteller's ability to manipulate memories into folklore. -- Library Journal.

gary soto the jacket: The Child to Come Rebekah Sheldon, 2016-11-01 *Generation Anthropocene. Storms of My Grandchildren. Our Children's Trust.* Why do these and other attempts to imagine the planet's uncertain future return us—again and again—to the image of the child? In *The Child to Come*, Rebekah Sheldon demonstrates the pervasive conjunction of the imperiled child and the threatened Earth and blisteringly critiques the logic of catastrophe that serves as its motive and its method. Sheldon explores representations of this perilous future and the new figurations of the child that have arisen in response to it. Analyzing catastrophe discourse from the 1960s to the present—books by Joanna Russ, Margaret Atwood, and Cormac McCarthy; films and television series including *Southland Tales*, *Battlestar Galactica*, and *Children of Men*; and popular environmentalism—Sheldon finds the child standing in the place of the human species, coordinating its safe passage into the future through the promise of one more generation. Yet, she contends, the child figure emerges bound to the very forces of nonhuman vitality he was forged to contain. Bringing together queer theory, ecocriticism, and science studies, *The Child to Come* draws on and extends arguments in childhood studies about the interweaving of the child with the life sciences. Sheldon reveals that neither life nor the child are what they used to be. Under pressure from ecological change, artificial reproductive technology, genetic engineering, and the neoliberalization of the economy, the queerly human child signals something new: the biopolitics of reproduction. By promising the pliability of the body's vitality, the pregnant woman and the sacred child have become the paradigmatic figures for twenty-first century biopolitics.

gary soto the jacket: Baseball in April and Other Stories Gary Soto, 1990 The Mexican American author Gary Soto draws on his own experience of growing up in California's Central Valley in this finely crafted collection of eleven short stories that reveal big themes in the small events of daily life. Crooked teeth, ponytailed girls, embarrassing grandfathers, imposter Barbies, annoying brothers, Little League tryouts, and karate lessons weave the colorful fabric of Soto's world. The smart, tough, vulnerable kids in these stories are Latino, but their dreams and desires belong to all of us. Glossary of Spanish terms included. Awards: ALA Best Book for Young Adults, Booklist Editors' Choice, Horn Book Fanfare Selection, Judy Lopez Memorial Honor Book, Parenting Magazine's Reading Magic Award, John and Patricia Beatty Award

gary soto the jacket: *This Boy's Life* Tobias Wolff, 2007-12-01 The PEN/Faulkner Award-winning author recounts coming of age in 1950s Washington State with his mother and abusive stepfather in this classic memoir. This unforgettable memoir, by one of our most gifted writers, introduces us to the young Toby Wolff, by turns tough and vulnerable, crafty and bumbling, and ultimately winning. Separated by divorce from his father and brother, Toby and his mother are constantly on the move. As he fights for identity and self-respect against the unrelenting hostility of a new stepfather, his experiences are at once poignant and comical, and Wolff masterfully re-creates the frustrations, cruelties, and joys of adolescence. His various schemes—running away to Alaska, forging checks, and stealing cars—lead eventually to an act of outrageous self-invention that releases him into a new world of possibility. Praise for *This Boy's Life* "Wolff writes in language that is lyrical without embellishment, defines his characters with exact strokes and perfectly pitched voices, [and] creates suspense around ordinary events, locating the deep mystery within them." —Los Angeles Times Book Review "[This] extraordinary memoir is so beautifully written that we not only root for the kid Wolff remembers, but we also are moved by the universality of his experience." —San Francisco Chronicle "A work of genuine literary art . . . as grim and eerie as *Great Expectations*, as surreal and cruel as *The Painted Bird*, as comic and transcendent as *Huckleberry Finn*." —The Philadelphia Inquirer "Wolff's genius is in his fine storytelling. *This Boy's Life* reads and entertains as easily as a novel. Wolff's writing and timing are superb, as are his depictions of those of us who endured the 50s." —The Oregonian

gary soto the jacket: *I Thought I'd Take My Rat to School* Dorothy Mintzlaff Kennedy, 1993 A collection of poems capturing the good and the bad sides of school, by such authors as Russell Hoban, Gary Soto, and Karla Kuskin.

gary soto the jacket: *Taking Sides* Gary Soto, 1991 Lincoln Mendoza has to face his homeboys when his posh new school goes up against his old school on the basketball court.

gary soto the jacket: *Growing Up Chicana/o* Bill Adler, A Lopez, Tiffany A. Lopez, 2009-03-17 What Does It Mean To Grow Up Chicana/o? When I was growing up, I never read anything in school by anyone who had a Z in their last name. This anthology is, in many ways, a public gift to that child who was always searching for herself within the pages of a book. from the Introduction by Tiffany Ana Lopez Louie The Foot Gonzalez tells of an eighty-nine-year-old woman with only one tooth who did strange and magical healings... Her name was Dona Tona and she was never taken seriously until someone got sick and sent for her. She'd always show up, even if she had to drag herself, and she stayed as long as needed. Dona Tona didn't seem to mind that after she had helped them, they ridiculed her ways. Rosa Elena Yzquierdo remembers when homemade tortillas and homespun wisdom went hand-in-hand... As children we watched our abuelas lovingly make tortillas. In my own grandmother's kitchen, it was an opportunity for me to ask questions within the safety of that warm room...and the conversation carried resonance far beyond the kitchen... Sandra Cisneros remembers growing up in Chicago... Teachers thought if you were poor and Mexican you didn't have anything to say. Now I know, We've got to tell our own history...making communication happen between cultures.

gary soto the jacket: *Live to Tell* Lisa Gardner, 2010-07-13 "A suspenseful roller-coaster ride."—Karin Slaughter • "Lisa Gardner always delivers heart-stopping suspense."—Harlan Coben He knows everything about you—including the first place you'll hide. On a warm summer night in

one of Boston's working-class neighborhoods, an unthinkable crime has been committed: Four members of a family have been brutally murdered. The father—and possible suspect—now lies clinging to life in the ICU. Murder-suicide? Or something worse? Veteran police detective D. D. Warren is certain of only one thing: There's more to this case than meets the eye. Danielle Burton is a survivor, a dedicated nurse whose passion is to help children at a locked-down pediatric psych ward. But she remains haunted by a family tragedy that shattered her life nearly twenty-five years ago. The dark anniversary is approaching, and when D. D. Warren and her partner show up at the facility, Danielle immediately realizes: It has started again. A devoted mother, Victoria Oliver has a hard time remembering what normalcy is like. But she will do anything to ensure that her troubled son has some semblance of a childhood. She will love him no matter what. Nurture him. Keep him safe. Protect him. Even when the threat comes from within her own house. The lives of these three women unfold and connect in unexpected ways, as sins from the past emerge—and stunning secrets reveal just how tightly blood ties can bind. Sometimes the most devastating crimes are the ones closest to home.

gary soto the jacket: *The Librarian of Basra* , 2005 In the Koran, the first thing God said to Muhammad was 'Read.

gary soto the jacket: Bookjoy, Wordjoy Pat Mora, 2018 An inspiring collection of Pat Mora's own glorious poems celebrating a love of words and all the ways we use and interact with them: reading, speaking, writing, and singing.

gary soto the jacket: Patterns of Exposition 16 Robert A. Schwegler, 2000-07 N [this book], the readings encourage students to take a stand on questions of culture, identity, and value in college communities, in the workplace, and in society. Thorough introductions to each rhetorical pattern and numerous exercises throughout the book emphasize practical writing strategies.-Back cover.

gary soto the jacket: *A Journey Toward Hope* Victor Hinojosa, Coert Voorhees, 2020-08-04 p>Four unaccompanied migrant children come together along the arduous journey north through Mexico to the United States border in this ode to the power of hope and connection even in the face of uncertainty and fear. Every year, roughly 50,000 unaccompanied minors arrive at the US/Mexico border to present themselves for asylum or related visas. The majority of these children are non-Mexicans fleeing the systemic violence of Central America's Northern Triangle: Honduras, El Salvador, and Guatemala. *A Journey Toward Hope* tells the story of Rodrigo, a 14-year-old escaping Honduran violence; Alessandra, a 10-year-old Guatemalan whose first language is Q'eqchi'; and the Salvadoran siblings Laura and Nando. Though their reasons for making the trip are different and the journey northward is perilous, the four children band together, finding strength in one another as they share the dreams of their past and the hopes for their future. *A Journey Toward Hope* is written in collaboration with Baylor University's Social Innovation Collaborative, with illustrations by the award-winning Susan Guevara (*Chato's Kitchen*, American Library Association Notable Book, New York Public Library's 100 Great Children's Books / 100 Years). It includes four pages of nonfiction back matter with additional information and resources created by the Baylor Social Innovation Collaborative.

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in the Logan Family Saga and companion to Mildred D. Taylor's Newbery Award-winning *Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry*. A drive South becomes dangerous for 'lois and her family. 'Lois and Wilma are proud of their father's brand-new gold Cadillac, and excited that the family will be driving it all the way from Ohio to Mississippi. But as they travel deeper into the rural South, there are no admiring glances for the shiny new car; only suspicion and anger for the black man behind the wheel. For the first time in their lives, Lois and her sister know what it's like to feel scared because of the color of their skin. A personal, poignant look at a black child's first experience with institutional racism.--The New York Times

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gary soto the jacket: The New Teacher Book Linda Christensen, Stan Karp, Bob Peterson, Moe Yonamine, 2020-11-16 This expanded third edition of *The New Teacher Book* grew out of Rethinking Schools workshops with early career teachers. It offers practical guidance on how to flourish in schools and classrooms and connect in meaningful ways with students and families from all cultures and backgrounds. Book Review 1: "I wish I had had *The New Teacher Book* when I started. But I have it now. We all have it now. Read it. Learn from it. Use it to change the world." -- Lily Eskelsen Garcia President, National Education Association Book Review 2: "This new edition of *The New Teacher Book* delivers powerful stories and lessons that will help new teachers infuse social justice ideals in their classrooms every day." -- Randi Weingarten President, American Federation of Teachers Book Review 3: "The *New Teacher Book* offers a roadmap for sustaining a career as a social justice educator. It's the kind of vision we need to fill classrooms with learning and hope." -- Linda Darling-Hammond Charles E. Ducommun, Professor of Education Emeritus, Stanford University

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