

## Nerdlandia By Gary Soto Lesson Plans

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 boy learns what it means to give and receive love in this beautifully refreshed edition of Lottery Rose from Newbery Award-winning author Irene Hunt. Georgie Burgess doesn't talk about the abuse that he receives from his mother and her boyfriend. Even though he's constantly getting into trouble at school, he continues to hide his hurt, refusing to tell anyone what life is like at home. Instead, he finds escape between the pages of books depicting beautiful gardens and flowers. When Georgie wins a small rosebush in a supermarket lottery, he gives it all the love and caring he's never had. Soon after, his life begins to change when child services remove him from his mother's care and look for a new, safe home for him. But all the while, Georgie still needs to find

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a home for his rosebush, and through the people he meets, he slowly learns what it means to be loved and accepted.

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.

Experiencing first love, dealing with crushes and mending broken hearts are some of the topics of love and life captured in these beautiful poems, told from the point of view of young adults of both sexes and diverse ethnicities. Reprint.

A collection of poems brings to life themes of childhood, place, and kinship.

Offers a collection of stories about a group of teens who, in their own ways, struggle to find their purpose in life and place in the world, such as the constant story-telling liar Veronica and friends Ronnie and Joey who spend their days as "Teenage Chimps" due to their feelings of alienation from everyone at their school. Jr Lib Guild. Reprint.

Rudy Herrera is surprised and excited when he gets an invitation to a pool party. It's from Tiffany Perez, the richest and most popular girl in school. Rudy's grandmother, "El Shorty," thinks he is going off to shoot pool. His sister, Estela, warns him not to make a fool of himself, or worse, embarrass her. Rudy's father teaches him how to make small talk and tells him Tiffany will like him because he's a real person, not a phony. All Rudy cares about is what to wear, what kinds of dives to do, and what to bring Tiffany. When the big day arrives, Rudy is in high spirits. Will he make a big splash at the pool party?

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From Grandfather "El Shorty" to Little Rudy, the Herreras are a family who not only live and work together, but love and enjoy one another. Gary Soto, poet and storyteller, gives young readers a story of simple pleasures, simply told and simply wonderful.

A collection of poems dealing with issues involving religion

Anansi and his wife outsmart the Sky God and win back the beloved folktales of their people.

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.

Ready-to-use, high interest stories with mini-lessons and activities that help students understand literary elements and use them effectively in their writing.

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.

Meatballs for the People: Proverbs to Chew On is a collection of witty and digestible aphorisms for our times.

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.

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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. Reissue. 40,000 first printing.

A collection of thirteen short stories about the everyday lives of Mexican American young people in California's Central Valley.

In 1909, twisted feuds spawn murder in Tangipahoa Parish, also known as "Bloody Tangipahoa," Louisiana's wild land where shotgun-pistol packing outlaws not only hide in swamps and dense forests, but also command the corridors of law-making and keeping places. Charged with murder and held in New Orleans Prison, Avery Blount, must rely on his strong family, motley friends, and eccentric attorney, Clay Elliott, to search for answers and reveal the truth of three murders that took place in the settlement of Tickfaw, Choctaw for, "wild beasts shed their hair here." In a treacherous tangle of deadly threats, hooded night riders, unrecorded murders, and political payoffs, cruel vengeance and betrayal threaten to turn the tide of Avery Blount's trial. In finding kindness and encouragement in unlikely places, he also finds hope that justice will prevail. In a desperate struggle to fight fear and anguish, he finds solace in the memories of his two small children and the love of a remarkable woman who waits in a moonlit pasture. Avery Blount's love and loyalty sounds the final call to arms. Broken Chain is based on a true story.

¡Viva la causa! ¡Viva César Chávez! Up and down the San Joaquin Valley of California,

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and across the country, people chanted these words. Cesar Chavez, a migrant worker himself, was helping Mexican Americans work together for better 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.

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.

The author recalls his childhood in Fresno, California, in the 1950s and 1960s, recreating the sights, sounds, and smells of his experience in a working-class Mexican-American community.

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 to go 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

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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*

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.

In order to look more like his father, Ricky borrows a mustache from a school costume, but when he loses it on the way home his father comes up with a replacement.

On his thirteenth birthday, Ronnie woke up feeling like a chimp—all long armed, big eared, and gangly. He's been muddling through each gawky day since. Now his best friend, Joey, has turned thirteen, too—and after Joey humiliates himself in front of a cute girl, he climbs a tree and refuses to come down. So Ronnie sets out to woo the girl on Joey's behalf. After all, teenage chimps have to stick together. Acclaimed author Gary Soto tells a fun and touching story about friendship, understanding, and the painful

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insecurities of being thirteen.

Selected by voters at the Guys Read Web site and compiled by Jon Scieszka, this collection shows that guys do read. Authors and illustrators including Stephen King, Matt Groening, T.A. Barron, Avi, and Jerry Spinelli share stories, essays, cartoons, and anecdotes about being boys.

An expanded version of *A Fire in My Hands*, Gary's Soto's acclaimed collection of poems about growing up Latino, now in paperback.

Presents twenty-five poems about the pleasures and woes that Mexican American children experience growing up.

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.

Follows five generations of an African-American family, from the capture and enslavement of the first ancestor, through the Civil War and the end of segregation, to a troubled cousin's reunion with his family. An ALA Best Book for Young Adults. Reissue. 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

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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!

Expanded from the award-winning Chicano poet's 1977 original, this poetry collection explores the hardships and joys of migrant workers in California. 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. Praise for *The Elements of San Joaquin* "A response to the charged, ideologically defiant voices from the seventies, *The Elements of San Joaquin* forever changed the course of Latino literature, redirecting us toward the

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mundane and ephemeral. The poet's only commitment, Gary Soto seemed to suggest, is to life itself. His teacher and role model was Philip Levine, who encouraged him to see his own neighborhood, indeed his own backyard, as a kingdom. The result was a type of poetry that weathered inclement times in ways that scores of other instant "hits" couldn't. It was new yet as old as the Bible and it still is. The word "classic" is overused these days. Not in this case." —Ilan Stavans, Lewis-Sebring Professor in the Humanities, Latin American and Latino Culture at Amherst College, and general editor of The Norton Anthology of Latino Literature "In the original *The Elements of San Joaquin*, Gary Soto defined the Chicano character as an underrepresented part of the American whole, the identity that would serve as foundation for my life's work. My parents and grandparents had crossed borders, but Soto rooted me, us, here—in the daily poverty of mejicano vecindades—on all those rural "Braly Streets" of Fresno, Brawley, and Salinas. His elements of sun, wind, stars, and field shadowed my own destiny to bring justice there, to the people of the hoe and harvest." —José Padilla, Executive Director of California Rural Legal Assistance

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. 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.

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Fourteen-year-old Mexican American Lincoln Mendoza spends a summer with a host family in Japan, encountering new experiences and making new friends. It all starts when Marisa picks up the wrong cell phone. When she returns it to Rene, she feels curiously drawn to him. But Marisa and Rene aren't exactly a match made in heaven. For one thing, Marisa is a chola; she's a lot of girl, and she's not ashamed of it. Skinny Rene gangles like a sackful of elbows and wears a calculator on his belt. In other words, he's a geek. So why can't Marisa stay away from him? Includes a glossary of Spanish words and phrases.

Chato decides to throw a "pachanga" for his friend Novio Boy, who has never had a birthday party, but when it is time to party, Novio Boy cannot be found.

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.

A collection of short stories about Mexican American youth growing up in California's Central Valley.

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