



Baseball in April and Other Stories

By Gary Soto

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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

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Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

Poet Soto (*A Fire in My Hands*) has written 11 contemporary short stories set in the poorer districts of central California. Sprinkled with Spanish expressions and phrases, the collection has a distinct Latino flavor, yet the conflicts and feelings expressed are universal. Whether conveying the joy of receiving a new doll, anxiety over Little League tryouts or the desire to stand above the crowd, Soto's writing is honest and moving. Although the narrative's subtle quality may not appeal to all readers, most will recognize truths revealed through everyday events and will appreciate Soto's ability to crystallize a moment. Ages 10-up. Copyright 1990 Reed Business Information, Inc.

From School Library Journal

Grade 4-7-- Insightful about the characteristics of early adolescents, Soto tells 11 short stories about everyday problems of growing up. Latinos in central California are the focus of the stories, but the events are typical of young teens anywhere in the United States. The main characters try out for Little League teams, take karate lessons, try to get the attention of the opposite sex, and are embarrassed by their grandparents' behavior. These day-to-day events reveal the sensitivity, humor, and vulnerability of today's young people. The descriptions and dialogue are used to advantage, helping to create and sustain the mood. A glossary of Spanish terms is included. Young readers should easily identify with the situations, emotions, and outcomes presented in these fine short stories. --Janice C. Hayes, Middle Tennessee State University, Murfreesboro Copyright 1990 Reed Business Information, Inc.

Review

"Gary Soto is an astute observer of the desires, fears, and foibles of children and teenagers going about the business of daily living. In these eleven vignettes featuring Mexican American families, the character portrayals are gentle; the tone is quiet and somewhat bittersweet; and respect for family is a consistent value. This illumination of the everyday will strike chords of recognition in readers of all ages." -- *The Horn Book*

"[Soto's] sensitivity to young people's concerns and his ability to portray the world as it is perceived by children is nothing less than remarkable." — *Los Angeles Times Book Review*

"A fine collection of stories that offers a different cultural perspective about feelings common to all teenagers. Soto writes well and with tremendous insight into the process of growing up." — *The Boston Globe*

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Juan Elam:

This Baseball in April and Other Stories book is absolutely not ordinary book, you have it then the world is in your hands. The benefit you receive by reading this book is actually information inside this publication incredible fresh, you will get facts which is getting deeper an individual read a lot of information you will get. This kind of Baseball in April and Other Stories without we realize teach the one who studying it become critical in considering and analyzing. Don't end up being worry Baseball in April and Other Stories

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Teresa Vanhook:

People live in this new morning of lifestyle always try and and must have the extra time or they will get lot of stress from both lifestyle and work. So , if we ask do people have time, we will say absolutely indeed. People is human not really a huge robot. Then we inquire again, what kind of activity do you possess when the spare time coming to you actually of course your answer will probably unlimited right. Then do you ever try this one, reading publications. It can be your alternative inside spending your spare time, often the book you have read is usually Baseball in April and Other Stories.

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