

The Jacket By Gary Soto Analysis

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Nerdlandia Parresia Publishers

The Jacket; Taken from the Book *Small Faces*, by Gary Soto
The Effects of Knut Hamsun on a Fresno Boy

A Stranger in the Kingdom Knopf Books for Young Readers

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.

Petty Crimes Paw Prints

After unexpectedly falling in love with a "nerdy" boy, fourteen-year-old Yolanda works to change her life by transferring to another school, altering some of her behavior, and losing weight. Reprint.

Tree Of Cranes HarperCollins e-books

FEATURING A BRAND NEW STORY "What's special about 'Cat Person,' and the rest of the stories in *You Know You Want This*, is the author's expert control of language, character, story—her ability to write stories that feel told, and yet so unpretentious and accessible that we think they must be true." —The New York Times Book Review "Kristen Roupenian isn't just an uncannily great writer, she also knows things about the human psyche—things that I always supposed I would learn at some point, but never did...The world has made a lot more sense since reading this book." —Miranda

July, New York Times bestselling author "If you think you know what this collection will be like, you're wrong. These stories are sharp and perverse, dark and bizarre, unrelenting and utterly bananas. I love them so, so much." —Carmen Maria Machado, National Book Award Finalist and author of *Her Body and Other Parties* A compulsively readable collection of short stories that explore the complex—and often darkly funny—connections between gender, sex, and power across genres. Previously published as *You Know You Want This*, "Cat Person" and *Other Stories* brilliantly explores the ways in which women are horrifying as much as it captures the horrors that are done to them. Among its pages are a couple who becomes obsessed with their friend hearing them have sex, then seeing them have sex...until they can't have sex without him; a ten-year-old whose birthday party takes a sinister turn when she wishes for "something mean"; a woman who finds a book of spells half hidden at the library and summons her heart's desire: a nameless, naked man; and a self-proclaimed "biter" who dreams of sneaking up behind and sinking her teeth into a green-eyed, long-haired, pink-cheeked coworker. Spanning a range of genres and topics—from the mundane to the murderous and supernatural—these are stories about sex and punishment, guilt and anger, the pleasure and terror of inflicting and experiencing pain. These stories fascinate and repel, revolt and arouse, scare and delight in equal measure. And, as a collection, they point a finger at you, daring you to feel uncomfortable—or worse, understood—as if to say, "You want this, right? You know you want this."

Accidental Love Houghton Mifflin Harcourt

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!*

Live to Tell Bantam

The Whispering Trees, award winning writer Abubakar Adam Ibrahim's debut collection of short stories, employs nuance, subtle drama and deadpan humour to capture colourful Nigerian lives. There's *Kyakkyawa*, who sparks forbidden thoughts in her father and has a bit of angels and witches in her; there's the mysterious butterfly girl who just might be an incarnation of Ohikwo's long dead mother; there's also a flummoxed white woman caught between two Nigerian brothers and an unfolding scandal, and, of course, the two medicine men of Mazade who battle against their egos, an epidemic and an enigmatic witch.

Buried Onions HarperCollins

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

Big Bushy Mustache Puffin Books

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.

If the Shoe Fits The Rosen Publishing Group, Inc

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.

The Elements of San Joaquin Houghton Mifflin Harcourt

One of the best-selling young adult books of all time, written by Pulitzer Prize-winning author Paul Zindel. John Conlan is nicknamed "The Bathroom Bomber" after setting off firecrackers in the boys' bathroom 23 times without ever getting caught. John and his best friend, Lorraine, can never please their parents, and school is a chore. To pass the time, they play pranks on unsuspecting people and it's during one of these pranks that they meet the "Pigman." In spite of themselves, John and Lorraine soon get caught up in Mr. Pignati's zest for life. In fact, they become so involved that they begin to destroy the only corner of the world that has ever mattered to them. Can they stop before it's too late?

Refresh, Refresh Laurel Leaf

As a young Japanese boy recovers from a bad chill, his mother busily folds origami paper into delicate silver cranes in preparation for the boy's very first Christmas.

"Cat Person" and Other Stories Penguin

In Queens, New York, in 1969, twelve-year-old Julian Twerski writes a journal for his English teacher in which he explores his friendships and how they are effected by girls, a new student who may be as fast as Julian, and especially an incident of bullying.

The Effects of Knut Hamsun on a Fresno Boy Houghton Mifflin Harcourt

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.

Cesar Chavez The Jacket; Taken from the Book Small Faces, by Gary Soto
The Effects of Knut Hamsun on a Fresno Boy
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.

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

A Fire in My Hands Houghton Mifflin Harcourt

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

Chato's Kitchen Graywolf Press

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.

Paul's Case Yearling

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.

Pacific Crossing Houghton Mifflin Harcourt

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? 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.

Taking Sides Clarion Books

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.

Penguin

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 "splotched 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.