



## Baseball in April and Other Stories

By Gary Soto

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**Baseball in April and Other Stories** By Gary Soto

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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## **Baseball in April and Other Stories By Gary Soto Bibliography**

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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.  
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#### **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  
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#### **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:**

#### **Todd Jacobs:**

Why don't make it to be your habit? Right now, try to ready your time to do the important behave, like looking for your favorite reserve and reading a e-book. Beside you can solve your trouble; you can add your knowledge by the e-book entitled *Baseball in April and Other Stories*. Try to face the book *Baseball in April and Other Stories* as your friend. It means that it can for being your friend when you feel alone and beside associated with course make you smarter than ever. Yeah, it is very fortuned for you personally. The book

makes you a lot more confidence because you can know every thing by the book. So , let us make new experience as well as knowledge with this book.

### **Nathan Weaver:**

Do you have something that that suits you such as book? The book lovers usually prefer to opt for book like comic, short story and the biggest some may be novel. Now, why not trying Baseball in April and Other Stories that give your fun preference will be satisfied by means of reading this book. Reading habit all over the world can be said as the opportunity for people to know world far better then how they react to the world. It can't be said constantly that reading behavior only for the geeky person but for all of you who wants to end up being success person. So , for all you who want to start examining as your good habit, you could pick Baseball in April and Other Stories become your personal starter.

### **Yolanda Matlock:**

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### **Vincent Humphreys:**

Reading a publication make you to get more knowledge from it. You can take knowledge and information coming from a book. Book is written or printed or outlined from each source that filled update of news. In this particular modern era like currently, many ways to get information are available for you. From media social such as newspaper, magazines, science guide, encyclopedia, reference book, story and comic. You can add your knowledge by that book. Are you hip to spend your spare time to spread out your book? Or just trying to find the Baseball in April and Other Stories when you necessary it?

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