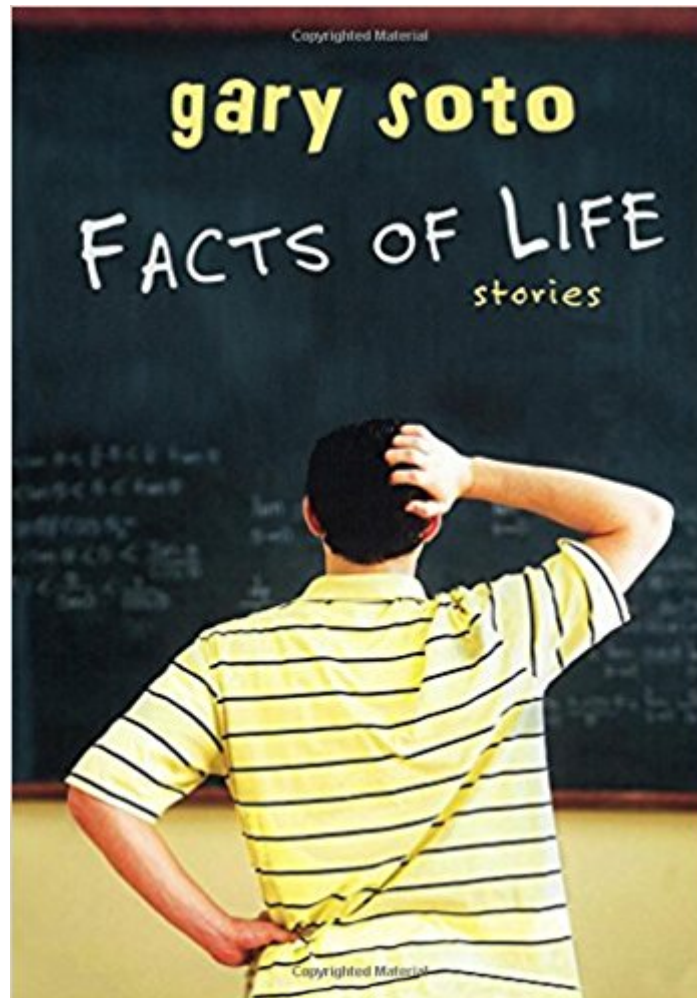




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Facts Of Life: Stories



Synopsis

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.

Book Information

Paperback: 192 pages

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Average Customer Review: 4.7 out of 5 stars 3 customer reviews

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Age Range: 12 and up

Grade Level: 7 and up

Customer Reviews

Grade 5-8 • Ten short stories deal with the trials and tribulations of growing up. In "Seeing the Future," 13-year-old Letty Rodriguez has landed the cool guy, but wonders if keeping him is worth the sacrifices she will have to make. Lisa Torres is a dreamer. The scenes she sketches in "Capturing the Moment" testify to her unique vision and artistic talent, qualities those around her don't share or understand. In "Where Did I Go Wrong?" baseball leaguer Mickey Cortez has just struck out, ending a game, and he is feeling down. On his way home, he meets Raul, who offers him 30 dollars for a couple of hours of work, and all of a sudden his life is looking up. When the work turns out to be illegal, Mickey begins to wonder if Raul is that cool guy he envisioned and must decide what to do. Each story offers an insightful look at a moment in a young person's life. Soto writes with humor, wit, and a voice that will appeal to tweens and teens alike. This work is a

terrific addition to the growing collection of literature that features Hispanic protagonists. --Sheilah Kosco, Bastrop Public Library, TX Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Pivotal moments in the lives of California Latino teens and tweens provide the starting points for Soto's collection of 10 new stories. For Letty, it's the realization that her boyfriend loves her money more than he does her; for Hector, it's the announcement of his parents' plan to divorce; for Laurita, a Chicana, it's the discovery that she's illegal; and for Lisa, it's the experience of a moment of beauty in her otherwise drab life. Other stories are less focused—for example, the episodic, day-in-a-life "Where Did I Go Wrong?"—and some veer dangerously close to the didactic ("D in English"). Nevertheless, Soto's affection and concern for his characters is evident throughout, while his greatest gift to readers may be the attention he focuses on meaningful lives, experiences, and occasional injustices that might otherwise go unobserved. A helpful glossary of Spanish terms and phrases is appended. Grades 5-8. --Michael Cart --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

the best

FACTS OF LIFE is a collection of short stories presenting a variety of adolescent views on growing up. Moving from childhood to adulthood is a completely unique experience, special to each individual. Gary Soto takes readers into the minds of ten teens and pre-teens and a defining moment in each of their lives. There is Lisa Torres, who suddenly realizes what her world of poverty really looks like to others. She learns that her personal fascination and appreciation of nature and the works of John Audubon may not be shared by those around her. Ana Hernandez finds her world turned upside down when another Ana Hernandez appears at her school. The new Ana is admired and worshipped, while the old Ana is lost in the crowd. She learns about the importance of popularity the hard way, by losing it. In other stories from the collection, readers will meet Hector, who must suddenly decide which of his divorcing parents' homes he will call his own. Rachael experiences the "wild side" when a new babysitter shows even less maturity and responsibility than Rachael's little seven-year-old brother. In "Citizen of the World," Laurita is exposed to the controversy of the illegal immigrant situation, and in "D in English" Ryan realizes it is time to take the

world around him more seriously and become a young man instead of a little child. Together, these stories merge to form a touching and honest look at what it means to take the giant step toward being an adult. The confusion, the disappointment, and the challenge of taking this step are evident as Gary Soto masterfully creates his characters and their true-to-life experiences. Reviewed by: Sally Kruger, aka "Readingjunky"

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