

STUDENT NAME:

TEACHER/PERIOD:

WK 5 ELA 7th

Gary Soto's poem "Oranges" describes the feelings and thoughts of a young boy as he ventures out on a first date with a girl in the grayness of a December afternoon. Challenged at first when he finds he does not have enough money to pay for a chocolate, he finds the warmth of human understanding saves the day.

Introduction

Gary Soto is an award-winning Mexican American author of poetry, children's books, memoirs, and plays whose work is largely inspired by his experiences growing up among migrant farmworkers in California's Central Valley. Of his poetry, author Joyce Carol Oates has said, "Gary Soto's poems are fast, funny, heartening, and achingly believable, like Polaroid love letters, or snatches of music heard out of a passing car; patches of beauty like patches of sunlight; the very pulse of a life." The poem here, "Oranges," reflects on the emotions of first love



Transcript

00:00 0 seconds(INTRODUCTION PLAYS)

00:02 2 secondsA cold December day.

00:08 8 secondsA boy walks down a frost-covered street.

00:10 10 seconds He is hand-in-hand with a girl—his first time.

00:14 14 seconds He's nervous.

00:18 18 seconds The details of this day live on in this boy's memory—

00:21 21 seconds the barking dog, the walk home, and even the snack in his

00:25 25 seconds pocket.

00:28 28 seconds What is it like to look back on a first love?

00:31 31 seconds How did this memory endure for poet Gary Soto?

00:36 36 seconds Find out.

00:37 37 seconds Read "Oranges" by Gary Soto.

Read: *"Oranges"* by Gary Soto

- 1 The first time I walked
- 2 With a girl, I was twelve,
- 3 Cold, and **weighted** down
- 4 With two oranges in my jacket.
- 5 December. Frost cracking
- 6 Beneath my steps, my breath
- 7 Before me, then gone,
- 8 As I walked toward
- 9 Her house, the one whose
- 10 Porch light burned yellow
- 11 Night and day, in any weather.
- 12 A dog barked at me, until
- 13 She came out pulling
- 14 At her gloves, face bright
- 15 With **rouge**. I smiled,
- 16 Touched her shoulder, and led
- 17 Her down the street, across
- 18 A used car lot and a line
- 19 Of newly planted trees,
- 20 Until we were breathing
- 21 Before a drugstore. We
- 22 Entered, the tiny bell
- 23 Bringing a saleslady
- 24 Down a narrow aisle of goods.

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25 I turned to the candies
26 **Tiered** like **bleachers**,
27 And asked what she wanted —
28 Light in her eyes, a smile
29 Starting at the corners
30 Of her mouth. I fingered
31 A nickel in my pocket,
32 And when she lifted a chocolate
33 That cost a dime,
34 I didn't say anything.
35 I took the nickel from
36 My pocket, then an orange,
37 And set them quietly on
38 The counter. When I looked up,
39 The lady's eyes met mine,
40 And held them, knowing
41 Very well what it was all
42 About.
43 Outside,
44 A few cars **hissing** past,
45 Fog hanging like old
46 Coats between the trees.
47 I took my girl's hand
48 In mine for two blocks,
49 Then released it to let
50 Her unwrap the chocolate.
51 I peeled my orange
52 That was so bright against
53 The gray of December
54 That, from some distance,
55 Someone might have thought
56 I was making a fire in my hands.

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Think

Question 1

What do you learn about the speaker, his actions, and the setting in lines 1–11? Cite evidence from the text to support your answer.

Question 2

What happens between the boy and the saleswoman in the drugstore? What does the boy's decision to barter suggest about him? Cite textual evidence to support your response.

Question 3

What happens to the two oranges from line 4 that the speaker had in his jacket? Cite evidence from the poem to support your answer.

Question 4

What does the word **weighted** mean as it is used in the phrase “weighted down” in line 3 of the poem? Use the context clues in lines 3–4 to define the meaning of the word. Write your definition of *weighted* here and describe how you figured out the meaning.

Question 5

What is the meaning of the word **bleachers** in line 26 of the poem? How does the analogy of the candies “Tiered like bleachers” help you visualize the meaning of the word? Use context

Vocabulary

Instructions for Student
Complete the chart by writing the number of the correct meaning into the third column to match the term in each row and then write a sample sentence in the fourth column.

Definition Options (6 of 6)

- 1. rows of seats, with each row higher than the other, for spectators to watch outdoor events.
- 2. powder used to make cheeks pinker
- 3. to free from constraint or confinement
- 4. to make heavier
- 5. arranged in layers or rows, one above or behind another
- 6. to make a sound like the letter “s”

Term	Form	Definition (#1-6)	Sample Sentence
bleachers	noun		
hiss	verb		
release	verb		
rouge	noun		
tiered	adjective		
weight	verb		

Skills Focus

1. Reread and highlight lines 3–6: “Cold, and weighted down / With two oranges in my jacket. / December. Frost cracking / Beneath my steps” What image do these lines of the poem create in your mind? Which two of the five senses does the image of “Frost cracking / Beneath my steps” appeal to? Cite specific evidence from the text. Use the annotation tool to record your response.
2. Highlight an example of alliteration in lines 20–23. Why do you think the poet uses alliteration in these lines? What does the use of this poetic element add to the poem? Cite specific evidence from the text. Use the annotation tool to explain your response.
3. Highlight an example of onomatopoeia in lines 43–50. What effect does the use of onomatopoeia have on the mood in these lines of the poem? Use the annotation tool to record specific textual evidence to support your answer.

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4. Highlight the analogy (or comparison) the speaker is making in lines 51–56. To what is he comparing the orange he is holding? Why does the orange appear so bright? With what is it being contrasted? Use the annotation tool to explain your analysis.
5. What is the theme of the poem? How does the theme illustrate the challenges of human interactions? Highlight examples of human interactions in the poem. Then use the annotation tool to record your answer. Cite specific evidence from the text as support.

WRITING PROMPT:

What is the conflict in the poem and how is it resolved? What does the conflict reveal about the speaker of the poem and the drugstore saleslady? Write a response to these questions citing details from the poem.

Response