Module 1: Identity

“Seventh Grade”

by: Gary Soto

Learning Goals:

* Understand how to do a close reading of a text
* Annotate a text effectively
* Understand plot elements and literary terms

Name:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Period: \_\_\_

ELA 7

In 2-4 sentences, explain what it means to be an ***active reader***:

**Annotation Notes**

Annotations:

* *Definition*:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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* helps with \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

& \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

* have a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_with the text

Suggestions for Annotating:

* , \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, or \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ important lines, words, sentences
* words you don’t know

* \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ in the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_:

*-ask \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_*

*-make \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ to other texts/real life*

*-note examples of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ being used*

* \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ in a few sentences each chapter or section of the text

*-For example, as you finish a page of a short story, write one sentence/phrase at the bottom “recapping” what happened.*

**Annotation prompts for each page:**

**Page 3:**

* setting
* protagonist

**Page 4:**

* conflict (person v. society)

**Page 5:**

* internal conflict

**Page 7:**

* conflict (person v. person)
* internal conflict

“Seventh Grade”   
Gary Soto

In *Baseball in April and Other Stories* (1990)

bd21390_

     On the first day of school, Victor stood in line half an hour before he came to a wobbly card table. He was handed a packet of papers and a computer card on which he listed his one elective, French. He already spoke Spanish and English, but he thought some day he might travel to France, where it was cool; not like Fresno, where summer days reached 110 degrees in the shade. There were rivers in France, and huge churches, and fair-skinned people everywhere, the way there were brown people all around Victor.

      Besides, Teresa, a girl he had liked since they were in catechism[[1]](#footnote-1) classes at Saint Theresa’s, was taking French, too. With any luck they would be in the same class. Teresa is going to be my girl this year, he promised himself as he left the gym full of students in their new fall clothes. She was cute. And good in math, too, Victor thought as he walked down the hall to his homeroom. He ran into his friend, Michael Torres, by the water fountain that never turned off.

     They shook hands, *raza-style[[2]](#footnote-2)*, and jerked their heads at one another in a *saludo de vato*. “How come you’re making a face?” asked Victor.

     “I ain’t making a face, *ese[[3]](#footnote-3)*. This is my face.” Michael said his face had changed during the summer. He had read a GQ magazine that his older brother had borrowed from the Book Mobile and noticed that the male models all had the same look on their faces. They would stand, one arm around a beautiful woman, and scowl. They would sit at the pool, their rippled stomachs dark with shadow, and scowl. They would sit at dinner tables, cool drinks in their hands, and scowl.

     “I think it works,” Michael said. He scowled and let his upper lip quiver. His teeth showed along with the ferocity of his soul. “Belinda Reyes walked by a while ago and looked at me,” he said.

     Victor didn’t say anything, though he thought his friend looked pretty strange. They talked about recent movies, baseball, their parents, and the horrors of picking grapes in order to buy their fall clothes. Picking grapes was like living in Siberia[[4]](#footnote-4), except hot and more boring.

     “What classes are you taking?” Michael said, scowling.   
     “French. How ‘bout you?”   
     “Spanish. I ain’t so good at it, even if I’m Mexican."   
     “I’m not either, but I’m better at it than math, that’s for sure.”

     A tinny, three-beat bell propelled students to their homerooms. The two friends socked each other in the arm and went their ways, Victor thinking, *man, that’s weird. Michael thinks making a face makes him handsome*.

     On the way to his homeroom, Victor tried a scowl. He felt foolish, until out of the corner of his eye he saw a girl looking at hint Umm, he thought, maybe it does work. He scowled with greater conviction.

     In the homeroom, roll was taken, emergency cards were passed out, and they were given a bulletin to take home to their parents. The principal, Mr. Belton, spoke over the crackling loudspeaker, welcoming the students to a new year, new experiences, and new friendships. The students squirmed in their chairs and ignored him, as they were anxious to go to first period. Victor sat calmly, thinking of Teresa, who sat two rows away, reading a paperback novel. This would be his lucky year. She was in his homeroom, and would probably be in his English and math classes. And, of course, French.

     The bell rang for first period, and the students herded noisily through the door. Only Teresa lingered, talking with the homeroom teacher.

     “So you think I should talk to Mrs. Gaines?” she asked the teacher. “She would know about ballet?”

     “She would be a good bet,” the teacher said. Then added, “Or the gym teacher, Mrs. Garza."

      Victor lingered, keeping his head down and staring at his desk. He wanted to leave when she did so he could bump into her and say something clever.

     He watched her on the sly. As she turned to leave, he stood up and hurried to the door, where he managed to catch her eye. She smiled and said, “Hi, Victor."

    He smiled back and said, “Yeah, that's me.” His brown face blushed. Why hadn’t he said, “Hi, Teresa,” or "How was your summer?” or something nice?

     As Teresa walked down the hall, Victor walked the other way, looking back, admiring how gracefully she walked, one foot in front of the other. So much for being in the same class, he thought. As he trudged to English, he practiced scowling.

     In English they reviewed the parts of speech. Mr. Lucas, a portly man, waddled down the aisle, asking, “What is a noun?”

     “A person, place, or thing,” said the class in unison.

     “Yes, now somebody give mean example of a person--you, Victor Rodriguez.”

     "Teresa,” Victor said automatically. Some of the girls giggled. They knew he had a crush on Teresa. He felt himself blushing again.

     “Correct,” Mr. Lucas said. “Now provide me with a place.”

     Mr. Lucas called on a freckled kid who answered, “Teresa’s house with a kitchen full of big brothers.”

     After English, Victor had math, his weakest subject. He sat in the back by the window, hoping that he would not be called on. Victor understood most of the problems, but some of the stuff looked like the teacher made it up as she went along. It was confusing, like the inside of a watch.

     After math he had a fifteen-minute break, then social studies, and finally lunch. He bought a tuna casserole with buttered rolls, some fruit cocktail, and milk. He sat with Michael, who practiced scowling between bites.

     Girls walked by and looked at him, “See what I mean, Vic?” Michael scowled. "They love it.”

     Yeah, I guess so.

     They ate slowly, Victor scanning the horizon for a glimpse of Teresa. He didn’t see her. She must have brought lunch, he thought, and is eating outside. Victor scraped his plate and left Michael, who was busy scowling at a girl two tables away.

     The small, triangle-shaped campus bustled with students talking about their new classes. Everyone was in a sunny mood. Victor hurried to the bag lunch area, where he sat down and opened his math book. He moved his lips as if he was reading, but his mind was somewhere else. He raised his eyes slowly and looked around. No Teresa.

     He lowered his eyes, pretending to study, then looked slowly to the left. No Teresa. He turned a page in the book and stared at some math problems that scared him because he knew he would have to do them eventually. He looked at the right. Still no sign of her. He stretched out lazily in an attempt to disguise his snooping.

    Then he saw her. She was sitting with a girlfriend under a plum tree. Victor moved to a table near her and daydreamed about taking her to a movie. When the bell sounded, Teresa looked up, and their eyes met. She smiled sweetly and gathered her books. Her next class was French, same as Victor’s.

     They were among the last students to arrive in class, so all the good desks in the back had already been taken. Victor was forced to sit near the front, a few desks away from Teresa, while Mr. Bueller wrote French words on the chalkboard. The bell rang, and Mr. Bueller wiped his hands, turned to the class, and said, “*Bonjour[[5]](#footnote-5)*.”

     “*Bonjour*,” braved a few students.

     “*Bonjour,*” Victor whispered. He wondered if Teresa heard him.

     Mr. Bueller said that if the students studied hard, at the end of the year they could go to France and be understood by the populace.

     One kid raised his hand and asked, “What’s ‘populace’?”

     "The people, the people of France.”

     Mr. Bueller asked if anyone knew French. Victor raised his hand, wanting to impress Teresa. The teacher beamed and said, “*Tres bien. Parlez-vous francais*?[[6]](#footnote-6)”

     Victor didn’t know what to say. The teacher wet his lips and asked something else in French. The room grew silent. Victor felt all eyes staring at him. He tried to bluff his way out by making noises that sounded French.

     “La me vave me con le grandma,” he said uncertainly.

     Mr. Bueller, wrinkling his face in curiosity, asked him to speak up.   
    
     Great rosebushes of red bloomed on Victor’s cheeks. A river of nervous sweat ran down his palms. He felt awful. Teresa sat a few desks away, no doubt thinking he was a fool. Without looking at Mr. Bueller, Victor mumbled, ‘Frenchie oh wewe gee in September.”

     Mr. Bueller asked Victor to repeat what he said.

     “Frenchie oh wewe gee in September," Victor repeated.

     Mr. Bueller understood that the boy didn’t know French and turned away. He walked to the blackboard and pointed to the words on the board with his steel-edged ruler.

      "*Le bateau*,” he sang.

     “*Le bateau*,” the students repeated.

      "*Le bateau est sur l’eau,[[7]](#footnote-7)”* he sang.

      “*Le bateau est sur l’eau*.”

     Victor was too weak from failure to join the class. He stared at the board and wished he had taken Spanish, not French. Better yet, he wished he could start his life over. He had never been so embarrassed. He bit his thumb until he tore off a sliver of skin.

     The bell sounded for fifth period, and Victor shot out of the room, avoiding the stares of the other kids, but had to return for his math book. He looked sheepishly at the teacher, who was erasing the board, then widened his eyes in terror at Teresa who stood in front of him. “I didn’t know you knew French,” she said. “That was good.”

     Mr. Bueller looked at Victor, and Victor looked back. Oh please, don’t say anything, Victor pleaded with his eyes. I’ll wash your car, mow your lawn, walk your dog--anything! I'll be your best student, and I’ll clean your erasers after school.

     Mr. Bueller shuffled through the papers on his desk. He smiled and hummed as he sat down to work. He remembered his college years when he dated a girlfriend in borrowed cars. She thought he was rich because each time he picked her up he had a different car. It was fun until he had spent all his money on her and had to write home to his parents because he was broke.

     Victor couldn’t stand to look at Teresa. He was sweaty with shame. “Yeah, well, I picked up a few things from movies and books and stuff like that.” They left the class together. Teresa asked him if he would help her with her French.

     "Sure, anytime,” Victor said.

     “I won’t be bothering you, will I?”

     "Oh no, I like being bothered.”

     “*Bonjour*,” Teresa said, leaving him outside her next class. She smiled and pushed wisps of hair from her face.

     "Yeah, right, *bonjour*,” Victor said. He turned and headed to his class. The rosebuds of shame on his face became bouquets of love. Teresa is a great girl, he thought. And Mr. Bueller is a good guy.

     He raced to metal shop. After metal shop there was biology, and after biology a long sprint to the public library, where he checked out three French textbooks. He was going to like seventh grade.

**Now, answer the following questions using evidence from the story to support your response. CITE PAGE NUMBERS PLEASE.**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Text-dependent Questions** | **Evidence-based Answers** |
| Based on the first two paragraphs of the story, what two reasons does Victor have for wanting to take a French language class? |  |
| The author states that Victor makes a promise to himself regarding Teresa.  What promise does he make?  What problem or conflict might this promise foreshadow or suggest? |  |
| Discuss Michael's plan and technique for winning girls, citing evidence from the text.  What is Victor’s response to Michael’s approach? |  |
| Using evidence from *throughout the story*, describe Victor’s approach to getting Teresa’s attention.  Cite at least 2 examples. |  |
| During his first day of school, Victor is preoccupied with thoughts of Teresa.  Find at least 3 pieces of evidence that prove Victor has strong feelings for her, & cares about what she thinks. |  |
| What does the author means with the phrases:  "Great rosebushes of red bloomed on Victor’s cheeks"  and  "A river of nervous sweat ran down his palms?" |  |
| What does Mr. Bueller do that helps Victor to keep Teresa’s respect?  What does it say in the text that suggests why he does this? |  |
| At the end of the story, Victor sprints to the public library and borrows three French textbooks. Why does he do this?  How do you know? |  |

**Author’s Purpose:**

Definition:

***There are 3 main purposes for an author to write:***

1. **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

* Author’s goal is to teach audience about a

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

* Facts are used to teach, not persuade
* Examples: textbooks, cookbooks, encyclopedias

1. **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

* Author’s goal is to persuade audience to

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

* Usually uses some facts &/or examples to persuade
* Examples: ads, commercials, newspaper editorials

1. **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

* Author’s goal is to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ or describe real/imaginary characters, places, & events
* Examples: poems, stories, comic books

**PRACTICE:** The title can usually help the reader understand or determine the author’s purpose. Use the graphic organizer to list the titles under the appropriate author’s purpose.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| To Persuade | To Inform | To Entertain |
|  |  |  |

Place the following titles in the graphic organizer based on what you think the author’s purpose is:

* Life Found on Mars. Scientists Discover New Forms of Life that Once Lived on Mars
* A Laugh a Minute
* America’s Best Educational Software
* The Secret of the Mysterious Pendant
* How to Cook a Turkey

***Next, determine the author’s purpose of the mask video & “Seventh Grade”:***

In small groups, complete the following graphic organizer

to determine the theme of Soto’s “Seventh Grade”:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Theme:** | **Evidence: *(with page #)*** | **Evidence: *(with page #)*** |
|  |  |  |
|  |  |  |
|  |  |  |

Now, write a ClEER paragraph proving ONE

of those themes is evident in the story.

How to write a short response:

*Make Sure Your Writing is CLEER.*

CL- Make a **cl**aim-

*Based on the* ***Question or Prompt****, state what do you* ***claim***

*about the character, event, author, central idea.*

🡪 1 sentence

E-**e**vidence- Detail from the story that **supports** your claim-

*According to the text…*

*The author describes*

*On page \_\_\_\_\_…*

\*\*\***E**xplain how this evidence supports your claim!

🡪 2-3 sentences

E-**e**vidence- Detail from the story that **supports** your claim-

*The text states…*

*The author implies*

*For example,*

\*\*\***E**xplain how this evidence supports your claim!

🡪 2-3 sentences

R-**r**easoning for your claim-

* How can you **reason** that your claim is true?
* What do you **realize** about the character, the author, the event?
* What did the evidence show or prove to you?

*The author develops…*  
 *The event led to…*

*This is why…*

*This proves/shows…*

🡪 2 sentences

In this ClEER paragraph…

Cl (claim) = proposed theme from “Seventh Grade”

E (evidence) = example (and page #) of the theme

*\*Explain how this example proves your theme*

E (evidence) = example (and page #) of the theme

*\*Explain how this example proves your theme*

R (reasoning) = What did this theme & the examples of it prove or show?

Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Period: \_\_\_\_

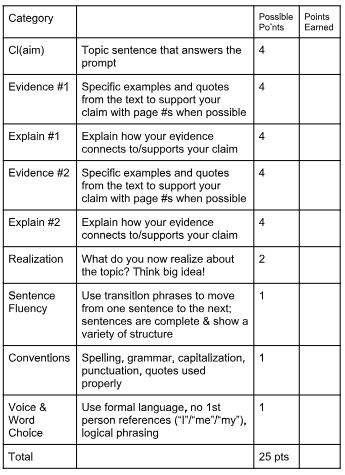
“Seventh Grade” ClEER Paragraph ELA 7 Blue

On the lines provided, please write a ClEER paragraph in which you prove one theme from the story to be true.

*Don’t forget:*

* *Indent your first line*
* *Put the title of story in quotation marks*
* *Use specific evidence & page numbers*

Rubric:



\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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1. Catechism – Christian religious study [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. *raza-style…saludo de vato –* Spanish gestures of greetings between friends [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. *ese –* Spanish for “man” [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. Siberia – region in northern Asia known for its harsh winters [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
5. *Bonjour –* “Hello” in French [↑](#footnote-ref-5)
6. *Tres bien. Parlez-vous francais? –* French for “Very well. Do you speak French?” [↑](#footnote-ref-6)
7. *Le bateau est sur l’eau –* French for “The boat is on the water” [↑](#footnote-ref-7)