

# IGNOU Books, IGNOU Result, IGNOU Solved Assignment, IGNOU

Home  
The Lathe of Heaven  
The Ides of March  
As I Lay Dying  
The Skull Beneath the Skin  
Gaudy Night  
Slouching Towards Bethlehem  
No Country for Old Men  
The Darling Buds of May  
Darkness Visible  
Kiss Me Kate  
What Dreams May Come  
Murder Being Once Done  
The Golden Apples of the Sun  
A House Divided  
A Great Deliverance  
Consider Phlebas

Posted on 06 May 2019 By Gary Soto

## [[ Download E-pub ]] ï Facts of Life: Stories ? eBook or Kindle ePUB free

[[ Download E-pub ]] ñ Facts of Life: Stories È 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

**gary soto**

FACTS OF LIFE

stories

Facts of Life Stories is a compilation of short stories that contain similar themes. Each story

has a young, Latin American student who struggles to accept reality in their situations. For example, Laurita is a young teenager who learns that she is an illegal alien. Before, she thought she was American until she looked for her birth certificate and could not find it. Her father explains to her that the world is her home, and that a paper should not determine that. She feels the same way and is passionate about it after she learns that she is in danger of being deported. Other stories show similar threads like the boy who was tricked into stealing. His circumstances were a fact of life. There was nothing that he could do. I would offer this novel to a middle school audience or a high school audience that faces reading difficulties. The language is simple and basic, yet discusses deeper concepts. Also, the Spanish words intermixed with English could distract readers who do not understand Spanish. There is a glossary in the back.

**Katie Young** Short Stories This book is a collection of ten short stories which tell different life stories of Hispanic young adults. Some of the stories are heartbreaking while others are light hearted and optimistic. All of the stories include a Hispanic young adult who tells their story and allows the reader a snapshot into their life. Some story lines include a boy helping a thief steal a TV without knowing it, a young girl finding out she is illegally in the US, learning how to deal with bullying, finding beauty when surrounded by poverty, learning lessons from elders, experiencing a night with a terrible babysitter, and a young man who is forced by his parents to choose who to live with when they divorce. The language is straightforward and pleasantly descriptive. Some stories include Spanish so there is a glossary of Spanish terms and phrases in the back. It is suitable for any young adults but may be appreciated by the younger young adult readers.

This book is a collection of short stories. Each story is narrated by a young Latina and offers a snapshot into their life. Some of the stories tell of a major life event finding out they were born illegally while others deal with daily adolescent traumas feeling as if you don't fit into your family. This book would fit in nicely to any middle or high school unit that deals with examining lives. None of the stories are sugar coated or overly done. In most, the narrator is better able to articulate their internal thoughts and feeling better than the average teenager but the content is real enough to pull most kids in. Short story collections are always fun to see their inter connectedness even if it is only coming from my desire to want that to be so.

Here we go, with **FACTS OF LIFE**.<sup>1</sup> **WHERE DID I GO WRONG** This story is much like the last story **D IN ENGLISH** in that you have a character crashing about the neighborhood going from situation to situation living moment to moment you see the Mickey cajoled into helping local kid only to find out he is aiding in a theft this is juxtaposed against Mickey being given adult responsibilities by his father, though it almost kills the man this is one of the thematic threads moving into a responsible role in life Mickey wants to make music but doesn't know how to play. The story is a bit all over the place but overhanging is the dread of being caught being kept from moving forward for reasons not entirely your fault.<sup>2</sup>

**CAPTURING THE MOMENT** Instead of being duped into crime, here our protagonist Gaby is frustrated in her efforts to move forward by the educational system specifically a teacher

who has put Gaby into a category in her brain Gaby, who wants to be an artist, paints a idyllic scene that appeared on her property following a great storm there was a lake formed and birds came Gaby drew it and took it to school for praise only to be told she was a liar this is not unlike another girl later in the series THE IDEAL CITY who is ridiculed when she presents to her classmates her version of a perfect society and her teacher largely lets the class run over her and then the teacher shakes her head when that character stays in the classroom and presents to an empty room The way in which the education system here isolates girls specifically is strong.

3 IDENTITY THEFT Here is another girl the story is a bit of a toss off Ana learns perspective when she is at once a threatened by a new girl who has her same first and last name b moves to Escondido and c becomes a new girl with the same first and last name of another girl Soto gets bonus for mentioning Chula Vista and Escondido areas close to my own house in Scripps Ranch and maybe if you take in the other female stories you see the blanding of women as a theme Identity This blanding also takes shape in CITIZEN OF THE WORLD

4 YOU DECIDE A young boy must choose which parent he will live with he ultimately decides to take his dog and find a better family I have a feeling this won't end well The cleaving away from parents is a strong theme here seen in WHERE DID I GO WRONG, THE BABYSITTER, and D IN ENGLISH so is the beauty of nature the comfort we get from the natural world seen in CAPTURING THE MOMENT, YOU DECIDE, CITIZEN OF THE WORLD

5 THE BABYSITTER While mom's away, a terrible babysitter comes in and takes away innocence innocently we are talking cuts, bumps, bruises, hair dye that won't come out, etc nothing jarring This, I'm assuming, is a counterpoint to YOU DECIDE The girl in the story is troubled at the end mainly because she is having trouble differentiating between the madness that the girl brings to the house, and the way her own mother was prettied up for her night out loss of innocence drinking coffee at the end the blanding of women

6 CITIZEN OF THE WORLD Despite worldly experiences, our female protagonist is experiencing an existential crisis by being connected to so much she is disconnecting from any specific thing This runs a bit contrary to my own experiences in San Diego, working with Latino youth there is a very very specific sense of place but these kids that I know haven't traveled.

7 WISE UNCLE JOE back to a male protagonist Uncle Joe is wise because he knows how to con people Loss of innocence central here as the protagonist learns to let go of his horror for lying to people in order to sell weeds wreaths Loss of innocence loss of identity.

8 SEEING THE FUTURE This is a positive story for a change, as a young girl in love with a user of a boyfriend, sees a couple that could be them in 5 years and immediately dumps the chump to make a better life for herself Yay

9 IDEAL CITY The female protagonist is bullied like crazy and hides within herself, creating an idyllic world without fear and competition No one cares Very sad Soto likes to put out bullies that go unchecked and learning to live through bullies I don't really care for that I think we have worked hard in schools to give kids a voice Soto needs to, perhaps, let go of his own experiences from the 60s and 70s and see that things might be a

little different in today's society. Yes, bullying continues but it isn't a rite of passage. **10 D IN ENGLISH** The male protagonist stumbles through a bunch of avoidance techniques, literally laying low three times in the story and seeing himself replaced as a son only to rise up and see people who are kind and trying to make a better world. Overall, Soto might be trying to say we all have dreams, people will use them to extort you, people will see your dreams as weakness and target you, your dreams will require a loss of self, giving up who you thought you were, your dreams will require you to take chances and stand up.

## New Post

Death Be Not Proud

Cakes and Ale

The Fault in Our Stars

The House of Mirth

Go Down, Moses

Breakfast of Champions

Pale Fire

The Dogs of War

The Road Less Traveled: A New Psychology of Love, Traditional Values and Spiritual Growth

Nothing Like the Sun

His Dark Materials

Darkness Visible: A Memoir of Madness

Days of Wine and Roses

Winter's Tales

The Lathe of Heaven

## Recent Post

Brave New World

Something Wicked This Way Comes

East of Eden  
The Sound and the Fury  
Of Mice and Men  
Rosencrantz and Guildenstern Are Dead  
Gone with the Wind  
For Whom the Bell Tolls  
Tender is the Night  
Far From the Madding Crowd  
A Handful of Dust  
The Grapes of Wrath  
Vanity Fair  
The Mirror Crack'd from Side to Side  
A Farewell to Arms  
The Winter of Our Discontent  
Things Fall Apart  
Stranger in a Strange Land  
Absalom, Absalom!  
I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings  
Cold Comfort Farm  
A Thousand Splendid Suns  
In Cold Blood  
Under the Greenwood Tree  
All the King's Men  
A Separate Peace  
Death Be Not Proud