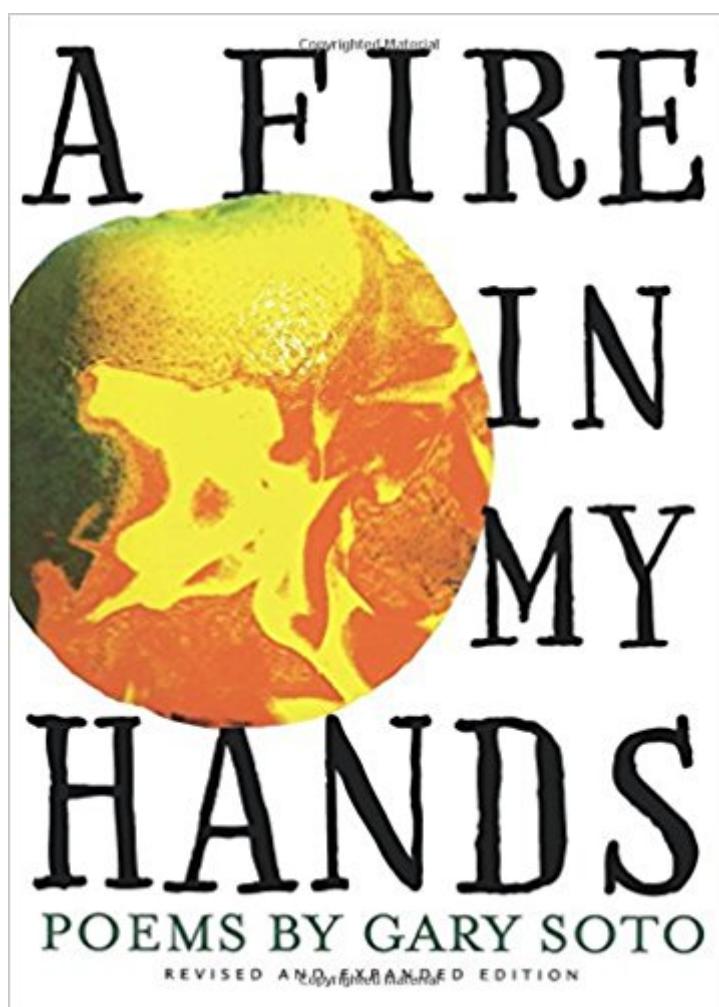


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# A Fire In My Hands: Revised And Expanded Edition



## **Synopsis**

Few writers capture the everyday moments of life like Gary Soto. In direct and vivid poems, he draws from his own youth in California's Central Valley to portray the joys and sorrows of young people. His writing focuses on Latino characters, yet speaks to readers of all ethnicities.

Acclaimed by educators since its original publication in 1998, *A Fire in My Hands* has been revised and expanded in this new edition. Old and new fans of Soto's work will welcome the return of his compelling poems. One of the poems in this collection, "Oranges," is a Common Core State Standards Exemplar (Grades 6-8, Poetry). Includes an introduction and an interview with the author.

## **Book Information**

Lexile Measure: NP (What's this?)

Paperback: 96 pages

Publisher: HMH Books for Young Readers; Rev Exp edition (October 22, 2013)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 054410482X

ISBN-13: 978-0544104822

Product Dimensions: 5 x 0.3 x 7 inches

Shipping Weight: 2.4 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: Be the first to review this item

Best Sellers Rank: #355,240 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #35 in Books > Teens > Biographies > Literary #51 in Books > Teens > Literature & Fiction > Poetry #78 in Books > Teens > Biographies > Cultural Heritage

Age Range: 12 and up

Grade Level: 7 and up

## **Customer Reviews**

Grade 6-10 These simple, free-verse selections skillfully capture that which is commonplace and transforms it into something mesmerizing and lovely. A first date, the embarrassment of belching root beer out of one's nose, the joy and the intricacies of the proper way to eat Mexican food, and a lost dog are just a few of the topics that Soto addresses. The 31 poems are delightful in themselves, but the poet also adds the brief reminiscence of the event or feeling that prompted him to write each one. Some are autobiographical, but more of them are only vaguely inspired by an actual event. Like Lori Carlson's *Cool Salsa* (Holt, 1994), these selections depict Latino characters but will

resonate with readers of all ethnicities. This revised and expanded edition will delight creative-writing teachers who are looking for a book that demonstrates the genesis of a poem as well as the compelling universality of the human experience. Heather M. Lisowski, Philip S. Miller Library, Castle Rock, CO 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.

Gr. 6-9. Half the poems are new to this expanded edition of a collection first published 15 years ago, including some great ones from Soto's adult books that speak about feeling stuck at home and growing up poor, Catholic, and Mexican American. Soto's chatty introduction about writing poetry that celebrates small, common things will appeal to both readers and writers, as will the informal questions and answers at the back of the book and the brief autobiographical notes Soto includes with each poem. There are no illustrations this time, allowing the poetry to evoke the images--from Soto's unsentimental memory of his immigrant grandfather ("Inheritance") to a search for adventure in "Hitchhiking with a Friend." One of the best poems, "Saturday at the Canal," captures the feelings of a teen sure that everything is happening somewhere else and dreaming of escape. Hazel RochmanCopyright © American Library Association. All rights reserved --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

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