

Student Packet

Grades 7–8

Taking Sides

Gary Soto

NOVEL UNITS[®]



NEW WAYS TO LEARN READING,
WRITING, & CRITICAL THINKING



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TAKING SIDES

by
Gary Soto

Student Packet

Written by
Elizabeth M. Klar
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Katherine E. Martinez

- Contains masters for:**
- 2 Prereading Activities
 - 1 Study Guide (4 pages)
 - 6 Vocabulary Activities
 - 3 Critical Thinking Activities
 - 3 Literary Analysis Activities
 - 2 Writing Activities
 - 2 Art Activities
 - 2 Comprehension Quizzes
 - 1 Novel Test (5 pages)
 - 1 Essay Evaluation Form
- PLUS**
- Detailed Answer Key

Note

The Harcourt Brace paperback edition of the book, published by Harcourt Brace & Company ©1991, was used to prepare this guide. The page references may differ in other editions.

Please note: Please assess the appropriateness of this book for the age level and maturity of your students prior to reading and discussing it with your class.

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Chapters Eleven, Twelve, and Thirteen

1. Who helps Mrs. Mendoza and Lincoln fix the door damaged by the intruder?
2. What does Tony send Lincoln in the mail?
3. Why does Lincoln scream when his mother touches his hurt knee?
4. What does Lincoln observe Coach Yesutis doing in the cafeteria?
5. What does Monica give Lincoln before she heads off to algebra class?
6. Who tells Lincoln that the coach was wrong to treat Lincoln badly?
7. What does Lincoln do to tune out the coach as he gives the pep talk?
8. What does Lincoln do to kill time before the game?
9. Does Lincoln's mother understand when he tries to tell her about how unfairly the coach treats him?
10. Who does Lincoln argue with before the game?
11. Who does Lincoln refer to as "men"?
12. Is Lincoln glad that the Franklin team is beating his school?
13. During what quarter does the coach finally let Lincoln play in the game?
14. Who wins the basketball game?
15. Who steps in when the coach turns and grabs Lincoln?
16. Why does Mrs. Mendoza want Lincoln to hurry up and shower?
17. Does Lincoln feel happy the morning after the game?
18. Who picked up the tab for the pizzas Lincoln ate with his friends?
19. Why does Lincoln owe Tony four dollars?
20. What does Tony plan to give Lincoln for Christmas?

Student Worksheets

Name _____

Compare and Contrast

To identify with the characters in a story you need to understand how they look, feel, act, and what they value.

Directions: In the space provided, draw a picture of three characters from *Taking Sides*. Write the character's name in the box above his or her picture. Below each person's picture, complete his or her description by using adjectives. After you complete your descriptions compare them to a classmate's. How are your descriptions similar to/different from your classmate's? Do you agree or disagree with your classmate's descriptions? Post the papers on a bulletin board for the rest of the class to view.

Students
Worksheets

Name _____

Exploring Characteristics

Directions: Imagine Lincoln is one of your best friends. What do you like about him? What makes him a good friend? What does he do to make you like him? How does Lincoln talk to you, treat you, and treat your other friends? Write down the traits and behaviors that describe Lincoln. Now answer the same questions about yourself. How are you the same/different from Lincoln? Do you think Lincoln would like to have you as a friend?

Student Worksheets

Name _____

Create a Map

Directions: Based on information from the book, create a map of the places described in *Taking Sides*. Some information is provided in the story, but you will need to use your imagination for the location of other sites. Include a key and a scale for measuring distance. Your map should include the following places: Columbus Junior High, Franklin Junior High, Cornell Elementary, James' house, Lincoln's house in Sycamore, the thrift store, and Tony's house. In addition to the places above, use your imagination to include at least three of the following: bus route, police station, churches, public library, fire station, and other retail stores.

Student
Worksheets

