

ORANGES

By: Gary Soto

The first time I walked
With a girl, I was twelve,
Cold, and weighted down
With two oranges in my jacket.
December. Frost cracking
Beneath my steps, my breath
Before me, then gone,
As I walked toward
Her house, the one whose
Porch light burned yellow
Night and day, in any weather.
A dog barked at me, until
She came out pulling
At her gloves, face bright
With rouge. I smiled,
Touched her shoulder, and led
Her down the street, across
A used car lot and a line
Of newly planted trees,
Until we were breathing
Before a drugstore. We
Entered, the tiny bell
Bringing a saleslady
Down a narrow aisle of goods.
I turned to the candies
Tiered like bleachers,
And asked what she wanted -
Light in her eyes, a smile
Starting at the corners
Of her mouth. I fingered
A nickel in my pocket,
And when she lifted a chocolate
That cost a dime,
I didn't say anything.

I took the nickel from
My pocket, then an orange,
And set them quietly on
The counter. When I looked up,
The lady's eyes met mine,
And held them, knowing
Very well what it was all
About.

Outside,
A few cars hissing past,
Fog hanging like old
Coats between the trees.
I took my girl's hand
In mine for two blocks,
Then released it to let
Her unwrap the chocolate.
I peeled my orange
That was so bright against
The gray of December
That, from some distance,
Someone might have thought
I was making a fire in my hands.

S Symbolism <i>An object, person, or place that has meaning within itself, but stands for something else in the context of the story</i>	I Imagery <i>When the descriptive language used enables the reader to imagine the image clearly.</i>	F Figurative Language <i>Assonance, Alliteration, Similes, Metaphors, Personification, Hyperbole, Puns, Idioms, Repetition, Rhyme, & Onomatopoeia</i>	T Tone & Theme <i>Tone is the quality of something (an act or a piece of writing) that reveals the attitudes and presuppositions of the author. Theme is the unifying idea that is a recurrent element.</i>
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