

## Olentangy Local School District Literature Selection Review

Teacher:	Gannon	School:	Hyatts
Book Title:	Jesse	Genre:	realistic fiction
Author:	Gary Soto	Pages:	166
Publisher:	Scholastic Inc.	Copyright:	1994

*In a brief rationale, please provide the following information relative to the book you would like added to the school's book collection for classroom use. You may attach additional pages as needed.*

**Book Summary and summary citation:** (suggested resources include book flap summaries, review summaries from publisher, book vendors, etc.)

In this new edition of his first young adult novel, Gary Soto paints a moving portrait of seventeen-year-old Jesse, who has left his parents' home to live with his older brother. These Mexican American brothers hope junior college will help them escape their heritage of tedious physical labor. Their struggles are humorous, true to life, and deeply affecting. Young adults will sympathize with the brothers as they come to terms with what is possible for each of them in an imperfect world.

**Provide an instructional rationale for the use of this title, including specific reference to the OLSD curriculum map(s):** (Curriculum maps may be referenced by grade/course and indicator number or curriculum maps with indicators highlighted may be attached to this form)  
CCS - Fiction - Reading Literature Standards # 1 #2 #3 #4 #6 #9

**Include two professional reviews of this title:** (a suggested list of resources for identifying professional reviews is shown below. Reviews may be "cut and pasted" (with citation) into the form or printed reviews may be attached to the form)

### Review #1

\*This book is listed in our new OHIO COMMOM CORE STANDARDS for Grade 7

From School Library Journal

Grade 9 Up-Set in Fresno, California, in the late 1960s, this coming-of-age tale is told from a Mexican American's point of view. Jesse, 17, is full of self-doubt amid the increasing tensions caused by the war in Vietnam, pressure from within his circle of friends to join the protests of Cesar Chavez, and by the general social and academic milieu of the local community college that he and his older brother attend. The young men share a rundown apartment; they work as day laborers in the fields as well as find and sell junk to earn their way. Already insecure about his lack of experience with girls, Jesse has his nose bloodied by a drunken high-school acquaintance while on his first date. This violence presages other incidents that, although relatively minor, allude to the overarching shadow cast by the war and by the omnipresent draft. The story is poignant, pregnant with unfulfilled promise and dreams of a future that is hoped for but rarely imagined. Simple words reveal universal experiences; innocent and open, Jesse begins to see the real world and discover his place in it. The ending is a bit bleak, suggesting the likelihood of more of the same mindless,

backbreaking, spirit-crushing work, with a plethora of unknowns lurking just over the horizon. Readers looking for a finely written, contemplative narrative will appreciate this work.  
Joel Shoemaker, Southeast Jr. High School, Iowa City, IA  
Copyright 1994 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Review #2

From Booklist

Gr. 10-12. To escape a home dominated by his alcoholic stepfather, 17-year-old Jesse abruptly leaves high school, moves into an apartment with his older brother, Abel, and takes classes at Fresno City College. It is 1968, and the brothers face both the threat of being drafted and the daily grind of their poverty. Racial and class prejudice limit their employment opportunities to field labor, and they pick melons, oranges, or cotton, depending on the season. Soto skillfully reveals the truth about the brothers' lives through details: in a particularly wrenching scene, they try hitchhiking to Pismo Beach for their spring break. Stranded for several days along the road, they shiver together through the night, never reaching the ocean. Jesse is artistically gifted and shy around girls; his struggles to communicate with girls, to date, and to succeed both socially and academically in school transcend the specifics of race and class. But Soto's story of a particular Mexican American boy in Fresno, California, during the height of the Vietnam War is rich in the details of Jesse's life and culture -- his friendships with other Mexican Americans, his involvement in Caesar Chavez's farm workers' movement, his struggles to find himself and a meaningful life in spite of the limits placed on him by poverty and prejudice. All in all, a highly readable novel

**What alternate text(s) could also fulfill the instructional requirements?**

Title: **Bad Boy**

Author: **Walter Dean Myers**

Title:

Author:

Title:

Author:

Title:

Author:

Title:

Author:

Title:

Author:

**Document any potentially controversial content:**

language

fighting

realistic historical details

**Keeping in mind the age, academic level, and maturity of the intended reader, what is the suggested classroom use: (check all that apply)**

Gifted/Accelerated  Regular  At Risk

**GRADE LEVEL(S):** 6  7  8  9  10  11  12

**Reading level of this title (if applicable):** Ages 12 and up

**Date Submitted to Department Chair:** 5/15/12

**Suggested Professional Literary Review Sources:**

School Library Journal

Horn Book

Bulletin of the Center for Children's Books

VOYA (Voice of Youth Advocates)

Library Journal

Book Links

Publisher's Weekly

Booklist

Kirkus Review

Wilson Library Catalog

English Journal (and other resources of the National Council of Teachers of English)

The Reading Teacher (International Reading Association)

Literature for Today's Young Adults