

Seventh Grade

FICTION SELECTION
Unit 1, Part 1, Grade 7



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Preparing to Read

Connect to Your Life

- How do seventh graders try to impress each other?
- What do you and your friends do to make others admire you?
- Do you behave differently with boys than with girls?



Preparing to Read

Build Background

“Seventh Grade” takes place in Fresno, California.

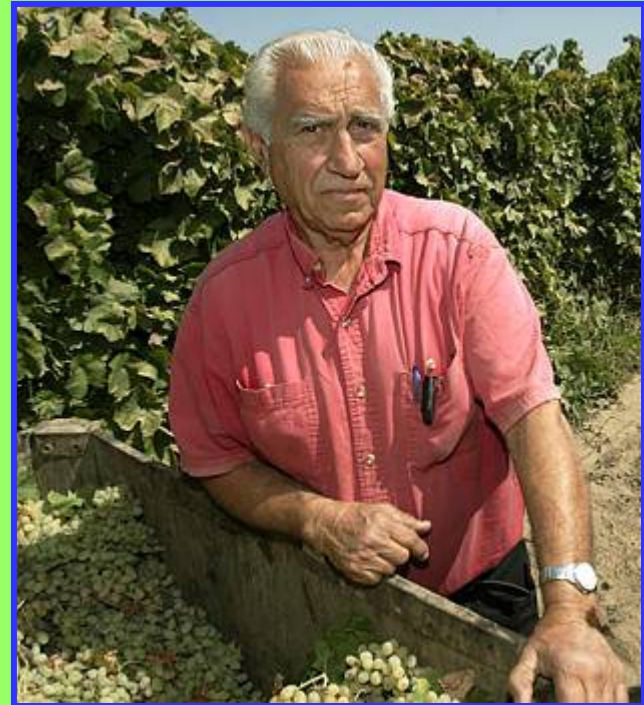
- Fresno is located in the San Joaquin Valley, southeast of San Francisco.
- Fresno’s dry, hot summers and cool, humid winters are excellent for growing grapes.



Preparing to Read

Build Background

A large number of Hispanics whose families are originally from Spanish-speaking countries are employed in Fresno's vineyards.



Preparing to Read

Words to Know

- bluff
- conviction
- elective
- ferocity
- linger
- portly
- quiver
- scowl
- sheepishly
- trudge

Preparing to Read

Focus Your Reading

- A story's **setting** is the time and the place in which events in the story occur.
- “Seventh Grade” takes place on the first day of class in a middle school in Fresno, California.
- How does this detail about Victor’s first day help establish the time and place for the story?
 - On the first day of school, Victor stood in the line half an hour before he came to a wobbly card table.

Preparing to Read

Focus Your Reading

- When you read a story, **connect** the characters, the setting, and the plot to information that you already know and to your own experience.
- Pay special attention to:
 - details about the setting and the characters.
 - statements the characters make.
 - events that happen in the plot.

Preparing to Read

Focus Your Reading

Reader's Notebook

- As you read, use a chart to help you find connections between Victor's experiences and your own.

| What Victor and I have in common | How Victor and I are different |
|----------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| | |
| | |
| | |
| | |

Download this graphic organizer at www.curriculumcompanion.org

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Reading and Analyzing

Reading Skills and Strategies

- Read the title and the opening line.
- Notice that French class is mentioned in the beginning of the story.
 - It will probably be significant.
 - What do you think will happen in French class?



Reading and Analyzing **Literary Analysis**

- Notice how the author indicates the passing of time in the story.
- Explain your observations.



Reading and Analyzing

Active Reading

- How does Victor feel after his comment to Teresa?
- What would you do now if you were in Victor's situation?
- Use your own knowledge and experience to comprehend Victor's confusion.
 - Have you ever felt confused in a class?
 - To what other experiences would you compare this confusion?

Reading and Analyzing **Literary Analysis**

What details does Gary Soto use to create a positive impression of the school?



Reading and Analyzing

Reading Skills and Strategies

What do you think will happen now that Victor has claimed to know French?

