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Lincoln is in a jam when his basketball team at his new school--where the students are rich and mostly white--faces his old team from the barrio on the boards. How can he play his best against his friends? No matter who wins, it looks like it will be lose-lose for Lincoln.

Taking Sides Details

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From Reader Review Taking Sides for online ebook

Cj Rittenhouse says

Taking sides is about a young Spanish boy named Lincoln Mendoza. Lincoln is in the eighth grade at Franklin Junior high in the barrio of San Francisco. After his house gets broken into Lincoln's mother decides to move to the white suburbs in Sycamore because there is less crime. He leaves everything behind in the barrio including his friends. Lincoln was the star player at Franklin Junior high until he moved. His new coach treats him unfairly. Lincoln is now suffering from a hurt knee, being homesick, and being treated unfairly. Lincoln's coach benches him on the big night of the game between his old school and his new school. This forces Lincoln to figure out where he belongs and who he is.

Frankie says

The main characters in my book is Lincoln Mendoza, he is Mexican and likes to play basketball he's the all-star of his team. Lincoln had moved schools due to someone breaking into his house so they moved out of the barrio. Him and his mom and dog had moved to a more decent neighborhood where Lincoln's friends thought it was rich people and white people. His friends said that Lincoln was changing a lot since he moved from the barrio and from schools but Lincoln did not agree with it because he said that even though he moved to a different neighborhood that doesn't mean that he had changed. The main conflict in the book is when Lincoln hurts his knee playing basketball with his crush (Monica) and he is worried that he won't be able to play against his old school. My personal reaction to my book was normal because I can connect to the way they talk and the things they do because me and my family get along like that. I personally rate this book with 5 stars and recommend anyone that can relate to this in any type of way.

Venu says

Taking sides is a book about a boy named Lincoln who once lived in a bad neighborhood. He later moves out of that bad neighborhood into a rich neighborhood. Lincoln lives with his Mom, his step father, and his dog Flaco. His dog was given as a gift by his dad. The climax of the story is when his new school plays his old school in a basketball game. Lincoln is really into basketball. Throughout the story Lincoln goes through the struggles of being the only Hispanic in his white neighborhood he also goes through the struggles of being new to the school.

My favorite character in this story is Lincoln because he is really good at dealing with stuff under pressure for example when he was hurt and somebody broke into his house he was very calm and tried to fight the intruder. The characters felt very real to me. The story was very predictable throughout the whole story I knew what was going to happen next. My favorite part of the book is when Lincoln's house gets broken into and Lincoln has the courage to get out of bed and try to fight the intruder. I felt like some parts of this story were not written well when the mood was sad the author would put something funny in, and it doesn't go with the mood. At the end of the story is very relieving for the reader. At the beginning of the story the book is very boring but when you get past the beginning it is very interesting and you want to keep on reading the book.

I did not like the end because it wasn't complete, the ending was worse than a cliff hanger. Another thing I did not like about this story is that it is very short and the story feels kind of rushed. The climax is at the end of the story and the climax is short and the details are very descriptive.

All in all I liked this book, I wish it was longer but it was a very entertaining book. I would rate this book a 3 out of 5. The people that would enjoy this book are people who like sports books and realistic fiction book. This is a very good novel written by Gary Soto.

Taylor Manrique says

Soto takes readers through the story of the harsh reality that young Lincoln is going through in his life. Lincoln is a shining star on the basketball court, he loves the game and playing with his best friends. Living in a violent and crime-bound neighborhood, Lincoln and his mother are always faced with the threat of someone breaking into their home, which has happened before. After their house has been broken into once again, Lincoln's mother decides it is time to move to a safer neighborhood, unfortunately meaning Lincoln must attend a different school. Saddened by the move away from his team and friends, Lincoln must learn to adjust to his new school, especially if he wants to continue playing basketball. As if the moves wasn't enough Lincoln's new coach treats him unfairly, he injures his knee, and must deal with being the only Hispanic kid at an predominately white school. Lincoln is forced to go through finding himself in this new place, while still trying to keep his old home as a part of his life. This story is perfect for readers of this age level(middle-level to high school), as the story comes from the perspective of someone their age. This story can be relatable for readers who have experienced a move and being the new kid, and the struggles that come with that. Readers can also relate to the passion Lincoln feels towards his sport, especially since this is the age when sports become competitive and a big part of young adult's lives. Readers of the Hispanic decent can relate to this story the most, probably because of the fact that Lincoln is a Hispanic male that struggles with being the minority of his new school. I was really able to relate to Lincoln when it came to being so passionate about athletics, as I was and still am. I know what it is like to deal with adversity when all you want to do is play and be the best at what you are doing. Although I enjoyed the concept of this story, I felt that it dragged on too much, when it could have been resolved chapters prior. By making this book shorter and getting to the resolution faster, I believe it would make it easier for readers to read and enjoy. This book can be used in the classroom as a reader's theater, where students can pick characters and a scene from the book to be acted out in front of the class. This way emotions and perspectives of the characters can be understood better.

Oscar says

Lincoln goes to Franklin high. He moved from the Mission District of San Francisco, an urban barrio, to sycamore, a pleasant suburban town with tree-lined streets. Lincoln hurt his knee and doesn't want to play but the coach is making him play. I think this book was good because this actually happens to people. Yes I would recommend this book to other people because it could be a real life situation for people. On page 79 it says Coach " I hurt my knee, its pretty bad."Coach tucked the ball under his arm and commanded, "Get dressed. You don't have time to be hurt."

America Saenz says

Lincoln Mendoza is an eighth grade Hispanic boy who used to play basketball for his old school, Franklin Junior High. His Latino populated neighborhood and his school were not one of the best ones out there, as it was very poor and filled with many crimes. One day, Lincoln's house is broken into and him and his mom move into a neighborhood of white people, where the everything is much nicer and there is much less crimes. He makes new friends at his new school, Columbus. One day, he injures himself and cannot play against his old school. All the time he is out and not playing basketball makes him homesick and he misses his friends, his school, and everything. He begins to reflect upon himself and if he is still loyal to his buddies at home, and true to his true Mexican self. This book is great, especially for those of Mexican heritage. It makes you really connect with the protagonist of the book, even if your heritage isn't Mexican because it is about staying true to who you are. I would recommend it to those who like stories they can connect to in several ways. By reading a story about something that can happen on real life, one can unlock the meaning and message behind it.

Terry Marzell says

Soto, Gary. *Taking Sides*. Orlando, Florida: Harcourt, Inc. 1991. Target Audience: Ages 8-12. Reading Level: 5.7. When eighth-grader Lincoln Mendoza moves from the inner city to the suburbs, he is forced to adjust to a predominately white school filled with upper-middle class students. He must make a personal decision about loyalties divided between his "homies" and former basketball team-mates and his new school's basketball team when the two schools are matched for an important league game. This coming-of-age story with a Hispanic protagonist would appeal to boys interested in sports. I appreciated the inclusion of Spanish-language dialogue which lent an air of authenticity to the narrative. Tag: CSULB Class 5 MS Realistic Fiction.

Jalen says

Lincoln Mendoza is a star basketball player for Franklin Junior High in the barrio of San Francisco, but when his house is broken into, his mother decides they should move to a better neighborhood the prosperous white suburb of Sycamore ten miles away. Lincoln likes the change at first, but soon he begins to miss his old friends and school. There's more to Lincoln's plight than being homesick, though. He has a fight with Tony, his best friend from the barrio; his divorced mother has a white boyfriend whom Lincoln dislikes; his basketball coach doesn't like him; he hurts his knee; and his new house is broken into. What else can go wrong? Well, he has a fight with Monica, a girl from his new school whom he really likes, and his coach benches him for the big game between his new school and his old one. When the big game finally takes place, it forces Lincoln to figure out who he is and where he belongs.

exposition- Lincoln is on the phone with Tony, talking about the bet they made. The bet was on a basketball game. And Lincoln got lucky and won the bet by a close game.

rising action- Lincolns school has to play against Franklin, Lincoln's old school, and Lincoln is very anxious to play them. he doesn't know which side to take. if he pick Franklin high school he dont know how he is going to play and if he chose Columbus he doesn't want tony to be mad at him.

climax - Lincoln hurts his knee and can't play against Franklin. he hurts his knee playing monica in a game of basketball. he leaped up in the air to block her shot and came down on it

falling action - They're playing Franklin and coach calls outs Lincoln into the game and Franklin win. But Franklin didn't care because he wanted Franklin junior high to win.

conflict- when Franklin junior high plays Columbus junior high and he doesn't know who he wants to win. but he ends up taking Franklin junior high side. He did it because he only really liked one person on Columbus high.

resolution- lincoln picked franklin junior high his old school. he wished he was still going there because he didn't like his basketball coach. he always talked about how he wished he was still going to franklin junior high.

setting- Taking Sides takes place in San Francisco around the late 1990s or early 2000s. We know this because the main character, Lincoln listens to the rapper Ice-T who began rapping in 1997. Moreover, the book states that Lincoln was listening to him on a cassette tape, which were popular around that time. Lincoln also lived in Mission District before he moved to Sycamore California.

protagonist- The protagonist is Lincoln. It is lincoln because it is all about him picking which team he wants to represent and what team he wants to win.

antagonist- Coach yatus is the antagonist. He is because throughout the whole story him and Lincoln didn't get along at all. And he was always on Lincolns back and nobody liked him.

Denouement- Franklin junior high beats Franklin junior high. they won by 13 points and Lincoln came in and closed the gap of the score.

Secondary characters- Monica, yutius, tony, james, roy, flaco, vickey, beatrice

Gail says

Taking Sides is included in Jennifer Serravallo's Independent Reading Assessment kit. I read this book to become more familiar with a level S book.

Linc Mendoza's story is one that will make students stop and think as they read his story of finding a way to "fit in" to a new school, a new neighborhood, and a new way of life after moving from the city to a suburban neighborhood in San Francisco. While his mom seems happier, Linc has a hard time knowing where he belongs until the basketball team in his new school faces off against his old school. This book is a complex story with characters who are real, somewhat unpredictable, and make you think about what you would do if you were faced with taking sides.

Dominic Romo says

Taking Sides by Gary Soto is a very similar book to The Absolutely True Story of a Part-Time Indian. Taking Sides is about Lincoln Mendoza, a Hispanic boy living in a very violent part of San Francisco, with frequent robberies and shootings. After their house is robbed, his mom takes it as the last straw and decides to move into a safer, white, neighborhood. Lincoln played basketball for Franklin Junior High School, but after the move he has to adjust to the new environment and his coach, whom highly dislikes Lincoln. He has a fight with his best friend Tony from his old neighborhood, and has trouble with girls and getting playing time on his basketball team. This book is very similar to The Absolutely True Story of a Part-Time Indian because like Lincoln, Junior from Part-Time Indian also moves school from harsh conditions, joins the basketball team, is not accepted by the white people, has a fight with his best friend and has issues with girls from the new school and in the end having to play his old team and friends. Readers that can relate to Hispanic culture, struggles with barrios and adjusting to new environments with many issues will truly feel connected. It would be hard for most to connect emotionally with the story if they have not had similar struggles or can not understand some common Spanish frases(phrases).

Victor says

In taking sides what I liked was that lincoln ended up being in both sides after he didn't know which side to pick. What I disliked was that the sport was basketball. Lincoln was my favorite character because he's the main character and never gave up when his knee was injured. Easy because it didn't have many hard words and had Spanish words.

To never give up cause he didn't give up on playing just because his knee was hurt. Coach cater reminds me of this book because they keep playing to win something out of it like Lincoln did when he was going up against his old school franklin.

Had Assay says

This book was so boring. I tried soon hard to get into it but I just could not. Throughout the whole time I was reading, I was waiting for SOMETHING to actually happen. Every time there was a "problem" it was resolved after about one chapter. Lots of left out information and some things were not explained thoroughly enough. All in all I DO NOT recommend this book. No plot, bad storyline and terrible characters. DO NOT READ!!

Alexis Hull says

This book was probably the best book I've ever read. It is so good with the descriptions and the feeling. As well of the dialogue. Then having a guy break in his house, with a girl he liked, but couldn't tell. Having a hurt foot, coach being mean about it. Then having to play against his own team. Brilliant. This book is way more than a 5-star rating.

Shauny alliknowisgo Cook says

This book is about a kid named Lincoln who used to live in the city and played basketball for is old school and was loving his life until he moved to the suburbs because someone broke into is home and stole his television and his radio . So his mother got tired of her neighborhood so she moved from there . Lincoln hates his new school because he is mexican and there is no mexican people at the school . His mom got a new boyfriend named roy and he used to play for Lincoln's old school . But the day before his game he met a girl and played basketball with her and hurt his knee so he couldn't play in the game against his old school and he was the best player on his team so his team lost . Then the coach calls Lincoln over to him and grips him up and since Roy had already punched the coach out at a basketball game when they were Lincoln's age he stood up and said something to the coach and the coach ignored it . So Lincoln's old coach offered him to go out for pizza with his old team to celebrate their victory even tho Lincoln's old team didn't win the game he went with them since his mother and roy was going to take him out anyway.

Diana says

Read this with my students for the past two years. No more. It is horribly boring. Students just glare at me whenever I tell them that we need to "get through this book".

I don't disagree with them.

The venacular is dated and the story plods along.

Ugh. Never again.
