



School-Home Connection

Your child is reading “Seventh Grade” by Gary Soto, a story about the first day of a boy’s school year. Victor has unusual worries about new classes, but he hopes most of all to be in some of the same classes as a girl named Teresa, whom he’d like to impress. After a series of embarrassing incidents, Victor succeeds in impressing Teresa – with the help of a teacher who understands Victor’s crush. Discussing the story with your child and working on one or more of the following activities together provides an opportunity to explore and develop your child’s language skills.

New Beginnings

Victor’s first day of seventh grade is similar to that of many students – it has its ups and downs. Have a discussion with your child about times you or your child began new situations, projects, or endeavors and how they progressed.

Vocabulary

Behavior Words

The following words are new vocabulary your child has learned while reading “Seventh Grade”:

uncertainly
bustled
propelled
elective

scowl
sheepishly
conviction

The selection vocabulary includes words that describe how people feel and behave. Create with your child a list of words that describe human behavior. You might brainstorm together a list of words based on the names of animals to describe human behavior, like *sheepishly*.



TIME TO READ

Encourage your child to read for at least 30 minutes outside of class each day.

Helpful Adults

The teacher in the story, Mr. Bueller, sympathizes with Victor when he thinks of his own experiences as a young man. Encourage your child to write a short description of a teacher or another adult who helped him or her out at some time. You might want to share a similar experience of your own with your child.

