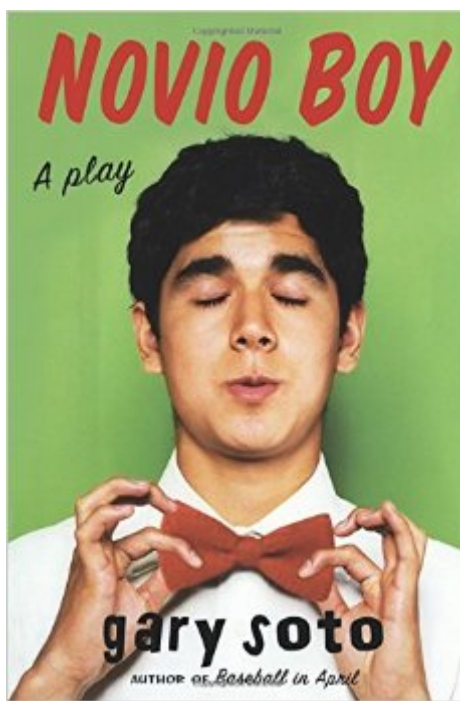


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# Novio Boy: A Play



## Synopsis

Ninth grader Rudy has a date with eleventh grader Patricia. Now he has to come up with the money, the poise, and the conversation to carry it off. This one-act play, by turns heartwarming and heart-wrenching, follows Rudy from his desperate search for guidance through the hilarious date itself--all the way to its happy conclusion. Includes a glossary of Spanish phrases.

## Book Information

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Average Customer Review: 3.9 out of 5 starsÂ Â See all reviewsÂ (50 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #158,039 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #30 inÂ Books > Children's Books > Arts, Music & Photography > Performing Arts > Drama & Theater #105 inÂ Books > Teens > Literature & Fiction > Performing Arts #166 inÂ Books > Children's Books > Geography & Cultures > Multicultural Stories > Hispanic & Latino

Age Range: 12 and up

Grade Level: 7 and up

## Customer Reviews

This is an excellent resource for comparisons to Shakespeare's Romeo and Juliet. I would recommend it to educators looking for an optional play to use with low level readers at the high school age. It is high on the interest scale due to the coming of age theme along with the addition of interesting family relationships to add to the similarities. A wonderful addition to a classroom library anywhere.

The play "Novio Boy," by Gary Soto, is really great. It's about a boy named Rudy, who's in ninth grade. His life is fine, except that the girl he likes is in eleventh grade. He has to build up a lot of courage to ask her out. It's really funny when Rudy's best friend, Alex, is telling him about when he went on a date. In my class, we connected that part to the movie "Napoleon Dynamite," and did a little impromptu. Overall this play is really funny and is great for class or for just reading by yourself

(though it's more fun to act it out). This book is really just one big coincidence, and if you read it, you'll find out what I mean.

Novio Boy takes place in Southern California. Rudy the main character is an ordinary 14 year old with his best friend Alex. But when Rudy meets pretty and smart Patrica in Roosevelt's high school cafeteria he plops on an extra helping of frijoles / beans. But she's 2 years older and Rudy doesn't know what to do! So he asks her out on a date to Steaks, Steaks, y mas Steaks! Where a hamburger costs like \$5.00 more than McDonalds. Then he realizes he doesn't have enough money for his date. So he goes to his mama and gets \$10.00 and advice about if its ok to date an older woman. He really doesn't get anything from her even though she's 2 years older than Rudy's papi. So he goes to his Uncle Juan and he pulls out some advice about not to worry about money and worry about what your going to say! And latter he gives Rudy \$10.00 he finds behind Sarah. His good luck girl so everything goes pretty good with Patrica. (except everyone he knows is there). So everything goes spectacular and Estella likes Patrica. I like this book because its cute, Rudy and Alex are so funny, and its kind of like a teen thing kind of book that you can relate to. A true all star book. least I think so.

I'm thrilled that my 9th and 10th grade special education students (mild to moderate, some high functioning and proficient autistic readers; other with ADHD) LOVE this play. I write LOVE in caps because as soon as my students enter class, they ask, "Can we read the play now?" Believe me, this is a rare occurrence and one that can only be explained because of the relevancy of the play's dating themes and the comical conflicts that arise between Rudy, the insecure 9th grader, Alex, his more confident friend, Patricia, the object of Rudy's fumbling affections, and Rudy's mother, the one who doesn't want to let go of her son. The first time we read the play aloud, my students laughed through much of it, probably because the dialogue reminds them of their own challenges with the opposite sex, overprotective mothers, and search for identity. For the adults in the room, Soto throws in Uncle Juan, a former hippie, now wanna be recording star, and Estela, an aging other-woman who longs to maintain her verve. I had my students write their own radio monologues, based on El Gato, the cool cat who hosts a call-in hour for the lovelorn. We had a lot of fun. This is a winner. Read it with your class.

Gary S. has done it again with this charming enertaining "sweetheart of a play" peopled with appealing characters. It's easy to feel for Rudy and his pre-date angst. I recommend this to anyone

who has ever been a teen and/or has ever been in love, whether male or female, Latino or Anglo.  
MUY BUENO! Author! Author!

I have to pull equity sticks to choose which of my fifth graders gets to be the next to read this book. I hope to have them put together some kind of reader's theater in the fourth quarter. It is awesome when they connect with a book.

Rudy is a 9th grader that likes an 11th grader named Patricia. Rudy tries to be nice to Patricia by serving her extra beans at lunch and Patricia thinks he's sweet. Rudy finally has the courage to ask Patricia out on a date to Steaks, Steaks, y mas Steaks which is a really good restaurant but the prices on the menus are too high. Now Rudy needs to get enough money to pay for Patricia's meal at their date. How will he do it? Read Novio Boy to find out.

This book really does not get boring. It makes you want to read more so you find out what happens or what is going to happen. What also makes it fun to read is that it is very up to date and the slang is excellent! This play by Gary Soto tells you what a "teenage date" with a girl is really all about.

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