

## If the Shoe Fits

*By Gary Soto*

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Rigo doesn't like being the youngest brother. He always has to wear his big brothers' hand-me-downs. Plus, his brothers-Hector, Manuel, and Carlos-always seem to lose buttons, rip holes, and wear the clothes out before they get to Rigo! But Rigo's luck changes on his birthday when his mom gives him a pair of shoes. He loves them for their shine and style, but most of all he loves them because they are brand-new. After he outgrows the shoes, and trades them to his uncle for old Mexican centavos, Rigo learns that some hand-me-downs are better than brand-new.

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## If the Shoe Fits By Gary Soto Bibliography

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## **Editorial Review**

From Publishers Weekly

Soto (*Too Many Tamales*; *Baseball in April*) sizes up the eponymous adage just right in this picture-book peek at a large Mexican-American family. As the youngest son in a household of growing kids, Rigo often gets stuck wearing frayed and ill-fitting hand-me-downs. So he's especially thrilled to receive a pair of brand-new penny loafers for his ninth birthday. But when a neighborhood tough makes fun of Rigo's fancy footwear, Rigo hides the loafers away. However, when Rigo needs to wear the shoes a few months later, they no longer fit him. The situation presents Rigo with an opportunity to see hand-me-downs with new eyes when he thoughtfully presents the almost-new loafers to his uncle, who can make good use of them. A realistic, consistently sensitive undercurrent of emotion runs throughout this swift-moving tale, so that it delivers its message with seeming spontaneity. Careful details help develop Rigo as a strong, intriguing character. Widener's (*The Babe and I*) highly stylized paintings combine creamy color tones and dynamic shapes. The buoyancy of the art, like the intimacy of the prose, enhances the story's liveliness. Ages 5-up.

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From School Library Journal

Gr 1-3-Rigo lives in a crowded house with his four siblings, his parents, and his uncle. Accustomed to hand-me-downs, he is thrilled when he gets new shoes for his ninth birthday. He loves them until a neighborhood kid makes fun of them and takes the nickels from the slots in the loafers. The shoes are stashed away until Rigo needs them for a party but finds they no longer fit. Fortunately, he realizes that his uncle could use them for his new job as a waiter. This is a gentle and honest story about a close-knit Mexican-American family. The uncluttered illustrations use bold colors and clean lines, which make the images simple and strong. It is a supplemental addition with a positive message about sharing.

*Linda M. Kenton, San Rafael Public Library, CA*

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From [Booklist](#)

Ages 4-8. Rigo, the youngest in his big, immigrant family, is tired of wearing everyone's hand-me-downs, so he's thrilled when he gets a brand-new pair of fancy loafers of his very own. He feels "suave." But when the local bully teases him, he puts away the shiny shoes, only to find out later that he has outgrown them. He gives the shoes to his uncle, who gives Rigo a hand-me-down from Mexico, something that is old and valuable. Many kids will recognize Rigo's resentment at being at the end of the line, and they'll enjoy Widener's computer-generated, cartoon-style art, in bright colors and bold, clear shapes that exaggerate the situation--from the close-up of Rigo's glowering face to the farce of his trying to squeeze his big feet into the shiny shoes. *Hazel Rochman*

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## **Users Review**

**From reader reviews:**

**Amy Hewitt:**

Book is to be different per grade. Book for children till adult are different content. As you may know that book is very important usually. The book If the Shoe Fits was making you to know about other know-how and of course you can take more information. It is rather advantages for you. The book If the Shoe Fits is not only giving you a lot more new information but also being your friend when you sense bored. You can spend your own spend time to read your reserve. Try to make relationship with the book If the Shoe Fits. You never sense lose out for everything when you read some books.

**Charles Payne:**

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