

ACTION LEAD

The night before Michael and Jesse were to try out for the Little League team for the third year in a row, the two brothers sat in their bedroom listening to the radio, pounding their fists into their gloves, and talking about how they would bend to pick up grounders or wave off another player and make the pop-up catch.

"Baseball in April" from Baseball in April and Other Stories, Gary Soto

SETTING LEAD

Out on the islands that poke their rocky shores above the waters of Penobscot Bay, you can watch the time of the world go by, from minute to minute, hour to our, from day to day, season to season.

Time of Wonder, Robert McCloskey

CHARACTER LEAD

Lupe Medrano, a shy girl who spoke in whispers, was the school's spelling bee champion, winner of the reading contest at the public library three summers in a row, blue ribbon awardee in the science fair, the top student at her piano recital, and the playground grand champion in chess.

"The Marble Champ" from Baseball in April and Other Stories, Gary Soto

DIALOGUE LEAD

"Where's Papa going with that ax?" said Fern to her mother as they were setting the table for breakfast.

Charlotte's Web, E. B. White

THOUGHT LEAD

The moment Fausto saw the group Los Lobos on "American Bandstand," he knew exactly what he wanted to do with his life – play guitar.

"The No-Guitar Blues" Baseball in April and Other Stories, Gary Soto