

Lawson Elementary
Johnston, Iowa

Dear Gary Soto,

Your short story "Born Worker" changed the way I act toward people not as lucky as myself. I learned that if you grant people opportunities, you're helping them out more than you think. And when you work hard together, you can do things that you could never do by yourself. So if you give opportunities to people and work hard as a team you will do great things.

In "Born Worker" when I heard that Jose didn't go to school, I thought he must be a hard worker because he helped his family. Then when his cousin Arnie made a business deal with him, he must have been doubtful because he already had a system going. It was probably hard to change the way he did things. Like me, I've just gotten braces, so now I have to change what I eat, how I eat it, and then brush after I eat that meal. He has to change where he goes, what he does, and then how he splits up the money with his cousin.

Once he saw how it worked, Jose realized they worked together well, made money, and Jose did things he could never have done without Arnie. And Arnie is making some extra cash that he would not have made without Jose. Jose knows that working together with Arnie is the right thing to do for himself and for his family. It comes down to this, when Jose worked by himself, he was doing what he had been doing his entire life. When he worked with Arnie, he made more money, but still is doing what he has been doing his whole life. Like editing, you might write a story, and then check over it by yourself, you might not see anything. Then you have someone else check over it for you and find a lot of things you need to change. Suddenly your story just got a whole lot better.

When you give people opportunities, two things happen. Your work gets done and the worker earns money. You help out yourself and your worker. Like my baseball team, the owner of a restaurant gave us a chance to make some money. She had us be busboys cleaning up after people that ate. We both got something out of the deal. Her tables got cleaned, and we earned half of the profit. She didn't know, this could be a big deal, or just a 'I'm just going to make a few extra bucks type of deal.'" People giving opportunities to Jose led to his success. If people had turned him down, where would he be? It all starts with giving chances to do something. If the worker doesn't do it right, just do it yourself. How easy is that? You gave someone a chance, they didn't do it right, it's the workers fault. Here's the point, if you give a child a chance to make money they might become the president, a lawyer, the next heart surgeon, or even a professional baseball player. Just give them a chance.

Working hard and together is much easier than working by yourself. You can do great things. So I hope people realize this and start helping kids who need money with opportunities. Who knows, the kid you help might be the most powerful person in the United States when he/she grows up.

Working together is much easier than by yourself. The things you can do expands. Also giving people opportunities is important. Giving people helps the person that's working for you and yourself. I hope that people start to realize this and start giving people that need money a chance to make some.

Your Reader,

Michael Kinning