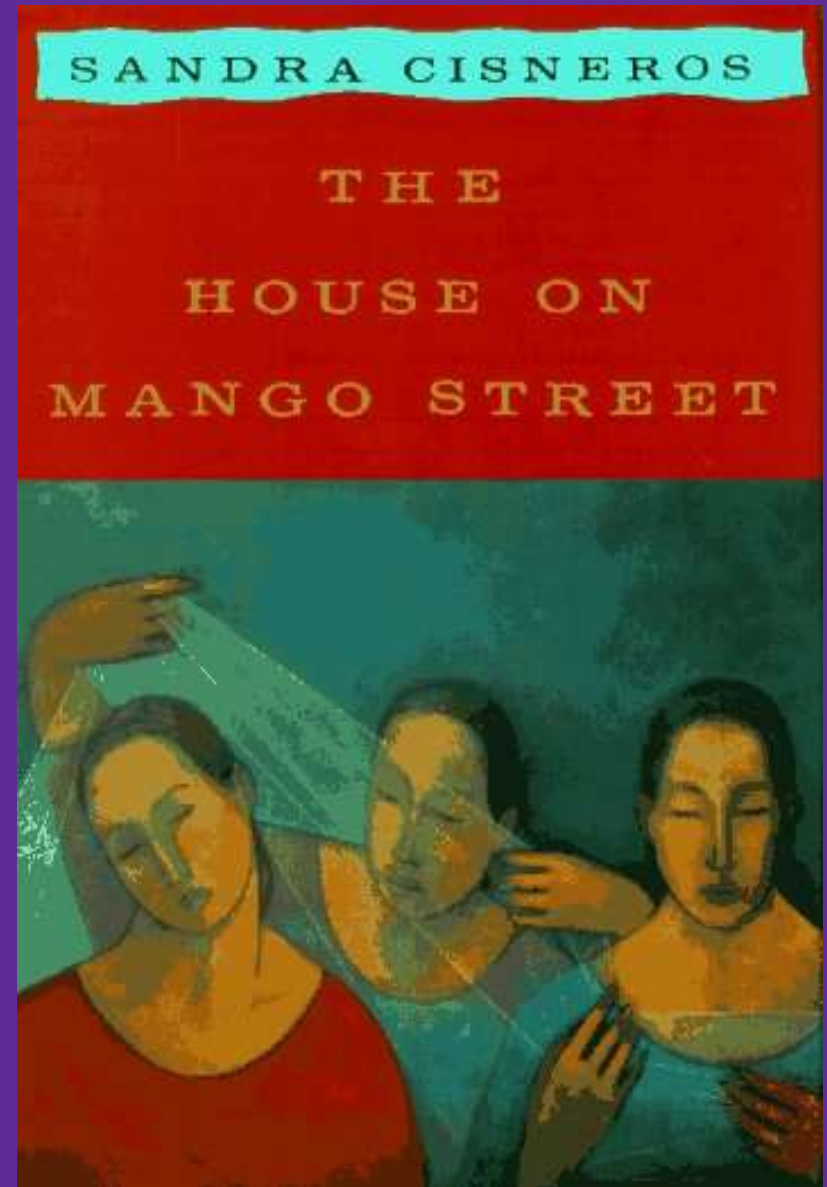


The House on Mango Street

By Sandra Cisneros

Background, Style, and
Themes



Sandra Cisneros

- Born 1954 in Chicago
- Addresses issues of Hispanic American women
- *House on Mango Street* was first novel
- Based novel on her personal experiences and people she knew



The House on Mango Street

- ❑ Tells the story of Esperanza who is struggling to grow up in Chicago's poverty-stricken south side as a Mexican-American, young woman
 - ❑ Bildungsroman: “coming of age”
- ❑ Told in short, interconnected chapters
- ❑ Relies on “lyrical narratives, vivid dialogue, and powerful descriptions”
- ❑ Written in vignettes



Style: Vignette



- Short scene that focuses on one moment or gives insight into a character, idea, or setting
- Does not have a plot which would make it a short story, but it does reveal something about the mood and tone.
- Has a theme or central idea of its own and describes a specific event or character that is important.
- Cisneros attempts to reveal the life of a young girl, a daughter of Mexican immigrants, growing up in the inner city of the United States.

Terms and Literary Devices

- ❑ **Simile:** comparison using like or as
- ❑ **Metaphor:** comparing two seemingly not alike things without using like or as
- ❑ **Imagery:** visually descriptive or figurative language
- ❑ **Theme:** a central idea in a text
- ❑ **Personification:** giving inanimate object human-like qualities
- ❑ **Alliteration:** the repetition of similar consonant sounds within a phrase or sentence.



Terms and Literary Devices

- ❑ **Tone:** an attitude of a writer toward a subject or an audience
 - ❑ Can be formal, informal, serious, comic, sarcastic, sad, and cheerful (etc.)
- ❑ **Mood:** certain feelings or vibes evoked in readers through words and descriptions
- ❑ **Indirect Characterization:** showing the character's personality through speech, actions and appearance.
- ❑ **Dynamic Character:** a character who changes throughout the novel



Terms and Literary Devices

- ❑ **Static Character:** a character who remains the same throughout the novel
- ❑ **Bildungsroman:** a coming of age story (German)
- ❑ **Double Consciousness:** describes the individual sensation of feeling as though your identity is divided into several parts, making it difficult or impossible to have one unified identity (W.E.B. DuBois)
- ❑ **Gender Roles:** the public image of being a particular gender that a person presents to others

House on Mango Street Themes



- Identity
 - Community / Neighborhood
 - Freedom / Growth
 - Fitting In
 - Coming of Age
 - Home / Belonging
 - The “American Dream”
-

Add these themes to your notes!

Additional Themes

Maintaining a double
identity or “double
consciousness”

The power of art to
transform lives

The influence of
socioeconomic status

The influence of gender
____roles

Character List



Esperanza Cordero

Rachel and Lucy

Sally

Nenny

Marin

Papa and Mama

Alicia

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oPyf89VsNmg> (story)

Classroom Rules and Expectations

1. You are responsible for keeping up with your playlist and turning in assignments due at the end of each week.
2. You are responsible for meeting due dates and reading this novel (you may ask teacher or peers for help but the task is yours to complete)
3. You are responsible for taking quizzes and turning in assignments NO MATTER WHAT (absences are not excuses)
4. You will receive daily participation grades. Being off task will result in points lost. Sleeping and/or playing around is NOT an option; there is ALWAYS something you can be doing!