

The House on Mango Street: Guided Reading Sections 4-7 Questions

For the next few weeks we will be reading, studying and analyzing Sandra Cisneros' short novel, *The House on Mango Street*. The novel is made up of 44 short character sketches, or stories, called vignettes. Esperanza, a Mexican-American young woman who just moved with her family to Mango Street, narrates them. Since the stories don't really follow each other chronologically, we are going to read the novel in the thematic sections outlined for you below.

Directions: Before you begin reading each section, answer the prereading question in at least one full paragraph (5-7 sentences). As you read each section, complete the guided reading questions that follow.

Section Four: Growth and Maturity, Sexuality

Pre-reading question: How is growing into a teenage body (physically, mentally and emotionally) like moving into a new house/apartment? Compare the experiences of moving into a new house/apartment to the experiences of being a teenager.

Read pp. 46-67: *The Family of Little Feet; A Rice Sandwich; Chanclas; Hips; The First Job*
Guided Reading Questions:

1. What might the shoes symbolize?
2. What happens when the girls wear the shoes?
3. What kind of person is Esperanza? What does the reader learn from this story about her strengths and weaknesses?
4. What is significant about the last lines, "All night the boy who is a man watches me dance. He watched me dance."
5. What's happening to the two sisters
6. What are your reactions to the end of "The First Job"?

Section Five: Gender Roles and Expectations

Pre-reading question: Should parents/guardians raise their teenage girls in the same way that they raise their teenage boys? Why or why not? What rules should be the same for girls and boys? What should be different? Do you have brothers, sisters, cousins, etc. who are treated differently from you because of gender? Explain.

Read pp. 67-73: *Papa Who Wakes Up Tired in the Dark; Born Bad; Elenita, Cards, Palm, Water; Geraldo No Last Name; Edna's Ruthie; The Earl of Tennessee; Sire*

Guided Reading Questions:

1. What does Esperanza realize about her father?
2. What is Esperanza's attitude toward the Fortune Teller?
3. What happened to Geraldo?
4. Why is Earl a mystery? Do you have a neighbor who is mysterious?
5. How is Lois a contradiction?

Section Six: Fitting in

Pre-reading question: Describe a situation where you once felt really out of place or uncomfortable. Why did you feel this way? What does the word "outcast" mean? What kinds of attributes make people into outcasts? Why must society have outcasts?

Read pp. 74-87: *Four Skinny Trees; No Speak English; Rafaela Who Drinks Coconut and Pineapple Juice on Tuesdays; Sally; Minerva Writes Poems; Bums in the Attic*

Guided Reading Questions:

1. Why does Esperanza identify with the trees?
2. What happens to Mamacita when she moves to the States? How does her husband act?

Name_____ Date_____ Period_____

3. Describe Sally. How is she different from Esperanza?

4. Why would Esperanza have bums stay in her attic?

Section Seven: Responsibility, Hopes, Dreams

Pre-reading question: What parts of your life would you most like to escape? Can you escape these elements at some point in your life? If so, how? If not, why not?

Read pp. 88-102: *Beautiful and Cruel; A Smart Cookie; What Sally Said; The Monkey Garden; Red Clowns; Linoleum Roses*

Guided Reading Questions

1. What does Esperanza want to be like when she's older? Why?
2. What is Esperanza starting to think of men? Why?
3. Compare and contrast Esperanza and her mother.
4. What advice does her mother give her?
5. In the last line, Esperanza says, "And the garden that had been such a good place to play didn't seem mine anymore." Why does she feel like this?
6. What is Sally's fate?