

BOOK REVIEW – Page 3
(Cultural or Human Rights Essay)

Cisneros, Sandra. The House on Mango Street, New York: Random House, 1984.

“The House on Mango Street”

Complete the following:

- 1) Describe the house on Mango Street
 - 2) Who lived in the house on Mango Street ?
 - 3) Where did the family live before moving to Mango Street?
 - 4) Who was the Landlord at the house on Mango Street ?
 - 5) What were the problems with the house on Loomis Street?
 - 6) Describe the house that the young girl dreamed of owning.
 - 7) Describe the young girl’s attitude about the house on Mango Street.
 - 8) Who is the narrator of the Mango Street story?
- 9) On a separate sheet of paper write a (3)- paragraph essay about one of the following:**
- a) A favorite house where you live or once lived.
 - b) Describe your dream house.
 - c) A time when your family was denied housing because of their race, religion or beliefs.

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“Hairs”

Complete the following:

In "Hairs," Cisneros describes the differences in the hair texture of the young girl's family members.

Describe the following from the descriptions provided in the text:

- 1) Papa's hair
- 2) The main character's hair
- 3) Carlos's hair
- 4) Nanny's hair
- 5) Mother's hair

6) On a separate sheet of paper write a (3)-paragraph essay about one of the following:

- a) Your hair texture and who determines if your hair texture is considered good hair or bad hair.
- b) Do you like or dislike your hair and why?
- c) The possibility of being treated unfairly because of the texture of your hair, and what human right has been violated (racism or discrimination)?

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“Boys & Girls”

In the reading "Boys & Girls," Cisneros claims that boys and girls live in separate worlds. She says that her brother Carlos and sister KiKi are best friends. It seems that the young girl in the story is longing for a best friend of her own.

On a separate sheet of paper write a (3)-paragraph essay about one of the following:

- 1) At what age (before sixth grade) was it taboo to be seen talking with a member of the opposite sex? Describe the circumstances and include the following.
 - a) Was your brother or sister or any family member involved?
 - b) Were neighborhood friends or school kids part of your experience?
 - c) At what age was it socially acceptable to be friends with a member of the opposite sex? Describe the circumstances.

- 2) Who was your best friend (before sixth grade)? Discuss this friend and include the following:
 - a) What was the age of your best friend?
 - b) How did you become acquainted?
 - c) Did you share secrets, jokes, or clothes?
 - d) Describe the quality time that you spent together?
 - e) Are you still friends with this person today or have lost contact?
 - f) Add any other details that you wish to include.

- 3) A time when you were prohibited from being friends with someone from another ethnic group.
 - a) How did you feel about not being allowed to talk or play with the person was of another race or religion?
 - b) What were the consequences of talking or playing with the person from another race or religion?
 - c) Whose Human Rights were violated, and how were they violated?

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“My Name”

Complete the following:

- 1) In the story "My Name," the young girl's name in English meansand in Spanish it means.....
- 2) The narrator says the young girl is named for her
- 3) Who is the young girl's grandmother?
- 4) In what year were the writer and her grandmother born.?
- 5) Who is the author of House on Mango Street?
- 6) What is it that the young girl does not want to inherit from her grandmother?
- 7) The young girl wants to be baptized under the name
- 8) **On a separate sheet of paper write a (3)-paragraph essay about one of the following:**
 - a) What does your name mean in English, Spanish, or any other language?
 - b) Whose name did you inherit?
 - c) Do you like your name and why?
 - d) If you were to change your name who would you become and why?
 - e) What is the statement that your name makes about you?
 - f) There are a lot of songs that name people. If you were to write a Human Rights song about your name what would the song say about you?

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(Human Rights Essay)

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"Cathy Queen of Cats"

- 1) How does Cathy identify herself?
- 2) Who lives next door to Cathy?
- 3) What does Cathy say about the neighbor next door?
- 4) Who are Benny and Blanca?
- 5) Who lives across the street from Esperanza?
- 6) What does Esperanza say about the neighbors across the street?
- 7) Who is Edna and what happened to her property?
- 8) What did Edna's mother say to her children about her property?
- 9) What did Edna's brother do?
- 10) Who is Alicia and what was her relationship to Esperanza?
- 11) Describe Cathy's cats.
- 12) What does Cathy's house resemble?
- 13) Cathy offers her friendship to Esperanza, tells her she has "got to" move away, she says, "the neighborhood is getting bad." What does Cathy's comments suggest?
- 14) On a separate sheet of paper write a (3)-paragraph essay about one of the following:
Note: Copy from the board the definitions for racism and discrimination before writing your essay.**
 - a) Why is Cathy's family moving a little farther north on Mango Street?
 - b) When you were a survivor of an act of racism or discrimination what happened:
 - 1) How did the experience make you feel?
 - 2) How did you respond to the experience?
 - 3) Has your attitude (feelings) changed since the experience?

Racism/Discrimination (Human Rights Essay)

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In a (3)-paragraph essay write about an experience when you were treated unfairly because of your age, gender, belief, or race. Include the following in your essay:

Note: Copy from the board the definition of racism and discrimination before writing your essay.

- a) A time when you were the survivor of an act of racism or discrimination?
- b) How did the experience make you feel?
- c) How did you respond to the experience?

Has your attitude (feelings) changed since the experience?

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(Cultural Essay)

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"Our Good Day"

Complete the following:

- 1) Who says, "If you give me five dollars I will be your friend forever? If you answered, "the little one," what is her name?
- 2) There are two reasons for the five-dollar request. What are the reasons?
- 3) Who is Tito?
- 4) Who already has ten dollars?
- 5) Why is fifteen dollars needed?
- 6) What does Cathy say about the sisters (new neighbors)?
- 7) What does Esperanza say about the sisters?
- 8) Describe the sister's clothing?
- 9) What is the name of the big one who laughs with her teeth?
- 10) What is the name of the little one who does all the talking?
- 11) Esperanza wishes she could change her name to
_____ or _____
- 12) What state are the sisters (new neighbors) from?
- 13) After the fifteen dollars is paid who will own the bike?

- 14) Why does Esperanza not mention Nenny to the sisters?
- 15) The girls agreed to ride the bike together. Describe their ride.
- 16) Their ride was fast and faster. What happened along the way?
- 17) Who is very sassy and why?

In a **three-paragraph** essay about one of the following:

- 1) How did you greet new neighbors when you were about age ten?
- 2) Was your attitude towards new kids similar to Cathy's or Esperanza?
- 3) What was sharing bike rides like for you at about age ten?
- 4) Were you quick tempered or sassy like Rachel? Give examples.
- 5) How was your "Good Day," with the new neighbor (s) similar to the three girls in the story "Our Good Day?"

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(Cultural Essay)

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“Laughter”

Complete the following:

- 1) In "Laughter," Esperanza claims that she and Nenny "are more alike than you would know. "She describes her laughter as being like a pile of dishes breaking all of a sudden. Describe your laughter and how it sounds.
- 2) In "Gils Furniture Bought and Sold," Esperanza describes a junk store that has an intriguing music box. **In your own words** describe how the music box performs after the owner starts it up.
- 3) In "Meme Ortiz," Esperanza tells us that Meme moved into Cathy's house. What is Meme's other name? Meme has a pet. What is her pet's name? How does Esperanza describe the pet?
- 4) **On a separate sheet of paper write a (3)-paragraph essay about one of the following:**
 - a) Someone you know whose laughter is so funny that it makes you laugh when you think of the person? Describe the person and their laughter.
 - b) What precious item did you find in a junk store or thrift shop? Describe your experience.
 - c) Did you or do you have a nick name. What is your nickname? Who gave you the nickname and why? If you like your nickname explain why. If you dislike your nickname explain why. What nickname did you want and why.

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“Louie”

Complete the following:

1) In "Louie..." we discover that he and his family members are Puerto Rican and that he has many cousins. The two cousins who are the most intriguing are _____ and _____.

Describe these two characters.

2) The other cousin is interesting because

3) In "Marin," the focus is on her character, personality, and her eyes. Why does Esperanza admire Marin?

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4) On a separate sheet of paper write a (3)-paragraph essay about one of the following:

- a) How many cousins you have and which two cousins are the most interesting or fun loving?
- b) Do you know someone who has a cousin like the guys who drove the big yellow Cadillac?
- c) Describe a person you know who most reminds you of Marin (e.g., who is secretive, a dreamer, and the older girl in the neighborhood.
- d) Describe a wild car ride that you have experienced or imagined and include the following:
 - 1) Whose Human Rights were violated by this illegal behavior?
 - 2) Describe the Human Rights violations.