



Name: _____

Period: _____

“Straw into Gold: The Metamorphosis of the Everyday” pp.354-357

Interview

Sandra Cisneros

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| 1. What is the effect of framing the video of Cisneros and the childhood scenes within picture frames? |
| 2. What does the documentarian convey through the music that plays in the background as Cisneros speaks? |
| 3. Why does the creator of this documentary clip use a narrow frame of video sequences to the left of Sandra Cisneros as she speaks about Latina women and the arts? |

Reflective Essay p. R14 _____

Thesis p. R19 _____

Analogy p.R1 _____

Anecdote p.R1 _____

1. Quests and Encounters: *“Why did I feel like the woman in the fairy tale who was locked in a room and ordered to spin straw into gold?” The situation at the dinner party reminded Cisneros of what fairy tale? Why does Cisneros use this particular analogy?*

2. Analyze Text Structure: *“Somehow though, I managed to make tortillas-crooked and burnt, but edible nonetheless. My hosts were absolutely ignorant when it came to Mexican food; they thought my tortillas were delicious. (I’m glad my mama wasn’t there.) Thinking back and looking at an old photograph documenting the three of us consuming those lopsided circles I am amazed. Just as I am amazed I could finish my MFA exam.” What two events in her life does Cisneros compare in this paragraph? What did she learn from these events?*

3. Thesis: *“I’ve managed to do a lot of things in my life I didn’t think I was capable of and which many others didn’t think I was capable of either. Especially because I am a woman, a Latina, an only daughter in a family of six men. My father would’ve liked to have seen me married long ago. In our culture men and women don’t leave their father’s house except by way of marriage. I crossed my father’s threshold with nothing carrying me but my own two feet. A woman whom no one came for and no one chased away.” What clues does this paragraph provide about the essay’s main idea?*

4. **Make Inferences about the Author: Why did Cisneros not enjoy school? What do her memories of school reveal about the kind of child Cisneros was? Support your answer with text evidence. (Quote)**

5. **Make Inferences about Details: What details in the essay suggest that Cisneros's life has been atypical or unusual, given her background? Support your answer with text evidence. (Quote)**

6. **Quests and Encounters: "But, most important, Texas brought Mexico back to me." In what ways do you think Texas brings back Mexico for Cisneros?**

7. **What does the author think made her a writer?**

8. **What is the "straw" the author refers to at the end of the selection?**

9. **What statement best describes the thesis of Cisneros's essay?**

- a. Lonely people often have a special insight into the lives of others.
- b. Latina women are as capable of succeeding as the men in their families.
- c. Difficult lives produce great writing.
- d. Obstacles can be summoned through hard work and determination.
- e. Strong families help create strong individuals.

10. **How does the essay's title relate to the author's anecdote of how she made tortillas?**

- a. Life is like a fairy tale.
- b. We are sometimes asked to accomplish impossible tasks.
- c. To the hungry, food is like gold.
- d. Foolish people cannot tell straw from gold or a good tortilla from a bad one.
- e. We can often achieve what at first seems impossible.

Practice with Analogies: Choose the word that best completes each analogy.

11. **exit : departure :: intuitively :**

- a. instinctively
- b. intelligently
- c. inaccurately

12. **requirement : demands :: taboo :**

- a. describes
- b. recommends
- c. forbids