

English 3-4 Honors and MYP Summer Reading 2020

This summer you will be reading [The House on Mango Street by Sandra Cisneros](#). The purpose of the summer reading assignment is to prepare you for the type of literary analysis that we will be doing sophomore year in Honors English.

If you have any questions, please feel free to email me at mleto@pvschools.net.

Introduction

Cisneros's *The House on Mango Street* is a short novella. You could read it in an afternoon and still have time to watch a movie. However, the point is not simply to read the novel: the point is to study it. Cisneros's 44 vignettes chronicle a year of Esperanza Cordero's life on Mango Street in beautiful, powerful, and poetic language. These vignettes capture the lives, hopes, disappointments, tragedies, and heartaches of people trapped in poverty. Through the eyes of eighth grader Esperanza, the world of Mango Street is laid bare in all its cruelty.

Specific directions

Make a copy of this doc and save it to your Google Drive so that you can type your responses. The assignment must be completed individually. This assignment is to be completed by the first week of school. Be sure that your explanations are not only thorough but also carefully written. Make use of the tools available to you such as spelling check and grammar check.

How does Cisneros develop her characters throughout the course of the novel? Choose four different characters for the chart below. Be sure your explanation is thorough and insightful.

Episode Title	Quote and page #	Explanation character development

How does Cisneros develop the following theme topics: shame of poverty, danger of poverty, gender roles, abuse, identity, coming of age, and education? Choose four themes and two

quotes for each theme. In your explanation, be sure to discuss the two quotes and how they connect to the theme.

Episode Title	Quotes and page #	Explanation of the theme topic
	1. 2.	
	1. 2.	
	1. 2.	
	1. 2.	

Literary devices are more than just beautiful language: the devices help us see and understand. Identify and elaborate on some of the poetic language that Cisneros uses such as simile, metaphor, personification, juxtaposition, and allusion. In your explanation, consider why Cisneros chose to use this device and how it fits with the vignette.

Episode Title	Quote and page #	Explanation of the literary device

Examine the structure of this novella. How does the episodic style of the vignettes add to the richness of the storytelling? Choose two sets of vignettes that go well together, perhaps they're about the same character or they bring out the same theme. In your explanation discuss how Cisneros skillfully juxtaposes these vignettes. Be sure to use different vignettes than in your previous responses.

Episode Titles	Unifying element or theme	Explanation
1. 2.		
1.		

2.		
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Short answer

1. Esperanza introduces the reader to many different characters in her neighborhood. What common bonds do these characters have?
2. Poverty is often cruel to children. How have you seen that in novella? How have you seen that in real life?
3. Why are the Four Skinny Trees important to Esperanza?
4. Throughout the story, Esperanza clings to her desire to leave Mango Street. Keeping her character in mind, do you believe that Eseranza will one day leave Mango Street?
5. Esperanza's name means *hope*. Does this name fit her character?
6. What is your cultural heritage? How does your culture help shape your identity?