

## Olentangy Local School District Literature Selection Review

Teacher:	OLHS English Department	School:	OLHS
Book Title:	The House on Mango Street	Genre:	fiction
Author:	Sandra Cisneros	Pages:	110
Publisher:	Vintage	Copyright:	1989

*In a brief rationale, please provide the following information relative to the book you would like added to the school's book collection for classroom use. You may attach additional pages as needed.*

**Book Summary and summary citation:** (suggested resources include book flap summaries, review summaries from publisher, book vendors, etc.)

The House on Mango Street is a collection of forty-four interwoven stories describing the life of Esperanza, a young girl coming of age in a Latino barrio. Along with painting a vivid portrait of Esperanza's life, the book explores the cultural forces that pull Esperanza in opposite directions. Should she follow her dreams out of the neighborhood or remain within the circle of her family and friends? Is it possible to do both? Though populated by a large cast of characters who lack power—politically, socially, sexually, and economically—Esperanza's story is full of hope (Jago 51).

Jago, Carol. Sandra Cisneros in the Classroom. Urbana, Illinois: National Council of Teachers of English, 2002.

**Provide an instructional rationale for the use of this title, including specific reference to the OLSD curriculum map(s):** (Curriculum maps may be referenced by grade/course and indicator number or curriculum maps with indicators highlighted may be attached to this form)

The House on Mango Street by Sandra Cisneros provides students with a rich opportunity to:

- Compare and contrast literary elements focusing on plot and conflict, literary styles in diverse works (Map 9 RAL9/12RALC).
- Explain how figurative language expresses tone (Map 9 RAL12/10RALF).

Additionally, the book provides powerful models for:

- Writing narratives that have engaging plot and well developed characters using sensory details and concrete language (Map 9 WA4/10WAA).

**Include two professional reviews of this title:** (a suggested list of resources for identifying professional reviews is shown below. Reviews may be "cut and pasted" (with citation) into the form or printed reviews may be attached to the form)

### Review #1

"Cisneros' writing is poetry, and her characters speak a kind of poetic dialogue that I haven't heard since Shakespeare moved out of the hood...[Cisneros] implores the reader to go ahead and take on life. She tells us not to back away because we find it hard. She asks us to read on. Then pick up our pens. And write" (O'Malley 35 and 37).

O'Malley, Thomas F. "A Ride Down Mango Street." English Journal 86.8 (1997): 35-37.

### Review #2

"Cisneros draws on her rich [Latino] heritage...and seduces with precise, spare prose, creat[ing] unforgettable characters we want to lift off the page. She is not only a gifted writer, but an absolutely essential one." (Bebe Moore Campbell quoted in Graeber)

Graeber, Laurel. "New and Noteworthy." The New York Times 29 Mar. 1992. 3 Apr. 2008.

<<http://query.nytimes.com/gst/fullpage.html?res=9E0CE7DF173BF93AA15750C0A964958260&scp=1&sq=bebe+campbell+moore+mango&st=nyt>>

**What alternate text(s) could also fulfill the instructional requirements?**

Title: **Sold**

Author: **Patricia McCormick**

Title:

Author:

Title:

Author:

Title:

Author:

Title:

Author:

Title:

Author:

**Document any potentially controversial content:**

There is no foul language. There are implied instances of domestic abuse and rape, but it is never directly discussed. The story is told by a young girl and everything is interpreted using a child-like lens.

**Keeping in mind the age, academic level, and maturity of the intended reader, what is the suggested classroom use: (check all that apply)**

Gifted/Accelerated  Regular  At Risk

**GRADE LEVEL(S):** 6  7  8  9  10  11  12

**Reading level of this title (if applicable):**

**Date Submitted to Department Chair:** 4/3/08

**Suggested Professional Literary Review Sources:**

School Library Journal

Horn Book

Bulletin of the Center for Children's Books

VOYA (Voice of Youth Advocates)

Library Journal

Book Links

Publisher's Weekly

Booklist

Kirkus Review

Wilson Library Catalog

English Journal (and other resources of the National Council of Teachers of English)

The Reading Teacher (International Reading Association)

