

Summer Reading Assignment

English II Pre-IB: The House on Mango Street by Sandra Cisneros

Choose **ONE** question to answer and explain completely. Your response must contain textual evidence that supports your point/reason for your answer as well as an explanation of each point/reason that you state. Follow the PEEL structure. [Point, Example, Explain and Link (to point stated)]. You are required to write a minimum of 1 page, double spaced typed (approximately 350 words). This assignment is **due on September 10, 2021**, but you may turn it in beforehand.

Choose from **ONE** of the following questions:

1. How is Esperanza's identity shaped by her community? How does her identity shift throughout the vignettes.
2. In *The House on Mango Street*, Cisneros writes of "those who don't know" about her neighborhood and the people in it. What is she saying about the way prejudices shape our perceptions of "us" and "them"?
3. What do "My Name" and "Geraldo No Last Name" tell us about how identities are tied into our names? How do names affect the way we see ourselves and the way others see us?
4. How does Cisneros' book impact and/or influence the Latino experience in America? Is the Chicago experience distinct?

EXAMPLE Provided Below:

Sample Question:

Cisneros writes, "I'm going to tell you a story about a girl who doesn't belong..." Why does she feel she doesn't belong?

Sample answer:

Esmeralda is a young girl who feels that there is more to life than what she has. In the first vignette she writes about her previous residences and her constant moving because her family is growing. "Before Keeler it was Paulina, and before that I can't remember. But what I remember most is moving a lot. Each time it seemed there'd be one more of us. By the time we got to Mango Street we were six-Mama, Papa, Carlos, Kiki, my sister Nenny and me." The idea of a better home and better life was always on Esmeralda's mind. The need for a bigger home prompted the family to move to Mango Street which they thought was going to be the house of their dreams, but it wasn't.

"... the house on Mango Street is not the way they told it at all. It's small and red with tight steps in front and windows so small you'd think they were holding their breath." The reality of her situation was an eye opener for her when she envisioned specific amenities such as indoor stairs, more than one washroom and a yard, but was hit with the fact that she was not getting her dream house. This house was not what she signed up for. She wants more for herself. Mango Street is the disappointment of the life she lives and recognizes that she doesn't belong there because she aspires for more.