

EN213 Summer Reading Homework:
The House on Mango Street, by Sandra Cisneros

The structure of *The House on Mango Street* is probably not one that you are used to. Instead of a typical plot (exposition, rising action, climax, resolution), Cisneros's novel is told through a series of vignettes (separated as different chapters). A *vignette* is "a short descriptive literary sketch" or "a brief incident or scene" (<http://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/vignette>).

READ AND ANNOTATE:

As you read the novel, look for similar thematic ideas across the different vignettes, consider the overall development of Esperanza--the main character-- and pay close attention to Cisneros's language.

Take **notes and annotate** your book as you read to understand and track the following items:

- How the main **character** is created by the author and how she develops throughout the novel
- How **minor characters** help us understand the main character
- **Conflicts** that develop in individual vignettes and throughout the entire novel
- **Themes** that develop throughout the novel: choose at least three of the following thematic topics and keep track of them across multiple vignettes:

Belonging	Identity
Childhood / Innocence	Independence
Culture	Names
Family	Neighborhood / Community
Friendship	Oppression
Gender Roles	Sacrifice
Home	Social Class
Hopes/Dreams	

- Significant use of **figures of speech**, applying the terms you learned in 9th grade: metaphor, simile, personification, symbol, hyperbole, allusion, imagery, irony, paradox, etc.
- **Words** that you don't know or aren't sure of: look up the definition and write it in the text.
- Other details or sections that you do not understand or find confusing.
- Anything else you find interesting or noteworthy

We will spend class time on this book in the first week or two of class, so please read actively and thoughtfully. You do not have to write anything *before* school begins, but follow the instructions above, so you are prepared on the first day of class as **your teacher might...**

- check your book for annotations that show you read actively in order to understand;
- have you orally present a summary, analysis, or response on some part or all of the text;
- quiz you on your attention to detail in the reading, especially regarding characters, relationships, and themes;
- have you write a summary, analysis, or response to some part or all of the novel.

While *House On Mango Street* is required reading, we encourage you to read more this summer: novels, stories, magazines, biographies, histories--have fun and challenge yourself!