

## EN213H Summer Reading Homework:

### *The House on Mango Street*, by Sandra Cisneros **and** Suggested Reading List

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

Childhood / Innocence

Class

Culture

Family

Friendship

Gender

Home

Hopes/Dreams

Identity

Independence

Materialism

Names

Neighborhood / Community

Oppression

Sacrifice

- Significant use of **figures of speech and structural devices**, applying the terms you learned in 9th grade: metaphor, simile, personification, symbol, hyperbole, allusion, imagery, irony, paradox, syntax, 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;
- have you write a summary, analysis, or response to some part or all of the novel.

**The best preparation for doing well in English, especially honors English, is to read widely and often.** Read fiction and nonfiction; read novels, newspapers, plays, poems; read what you love but also try to read some challenging texts.

Here are some suggestions for great books by American authors:

*The Scarlet Letter* (1865), Nathaniel Hawthorne  
*Little Women* (1868), by Louisa May Alcott  
*Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* (1884), by Mark Twain  
*The Red Badge of Courage* (1895), Stephen Crane  
*Passing* (1929), by Nella Larsen  
*Their Eyes Were Watching God* (1937), by Zora Neale Hurston  
*A Tree Grows in Brooklyn* (1943), by Betty Smith  
*The Chosen* (1967), Chaim Potok  
*I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings* (1969), by Maya Angelou  
*Love Medicine* (1984), by Louise Erdrich  
*The Joy Luck Club* (1989), Amy Tan  
*Typical American* (1991), by Gish Jen  
*How The Garcia Girls Lost Their Accents* (1991), Julia Alvarez  
*The Kite Runner* (2003), by Khaled Hosseini  
*The Namesake* (2003), by Jhumpa Lahiri  
*Extremely Loud and Incredibly Close* (2005), by Jonathan Safran Foer  
*Underground Railroad* (2016), by Colson Whitehead  
*Little Fires Everywhere* (2017), by Celeste Ng (the TV show is different--read the book!)  
*Sing Unburied, Sing* (2017), Jessmyn Ward  
*James* (2024), Percival Everett (especially if you have read *Huck Finn*!)

### **Biography/Memoir/Non-Fiction**

*A Walk in the Woods* (2006), by Bill Bryson (humor--about walking the Appalachian Trail)  
*American Born Chinese* (2008), by Gene Leun Yang  
*The Other Wes Moore: One Name, Two Fates* (2010), Wes Moore  
*Becoming* (2018), by Michelle Obama

### **Drama**

*Our Town* (1938), Thornton Wilder  
*The Glass Menagerie* (1944), Tennessee Williams  
*Death of a Salesman* (1949), by Arthur Miller  
*Detroit '67* (2016), Dominique Morriseau