

Grade 8 Summer Reading Assignment

Now more than ever, it is important for students to keep reading and writing over the summer! Please use the assignments below to give your student continued practice and to prepare them for new learning in the fall.

Assignment:

- Your student received a copy of *The House on Mango Street* at the end of the school year. They should read this text over the summer and complete the attached packet.
- Students are expected to return their copy of the book and their packet at their starting strong conferences.
- Lost or damaged copies will need to be replaced. You can find *The House on Mango Street* on Amazon and at most local bookstores.
- If you are unable to replace a lost or damaged copy, please reach out to lpolite@wissahickoncharter.org over the summer and to your student's teacher starting August 21st.
- The work can be completed on Google Classroom or in this packet.
- All work should be turned in during their starting strong conferences, WILL be graded for completion and students will have a quiz on the book on the first day of school.



by SANDRA CISNEROS

STUDENT WORKBOOK

Name:

1 would like to baptize myself under

a new name, a name more like the real me, the one nobody sees.



Write your own essential questions.

This novel deals with some important topics. For each of the following, write your own essential question for your study. That is, a question which you don't know the answer to yet, but you want to have in the back of your mind as your read the text. It should be a broad question which could apply to you, your community, or the world at large.

Gender Roles	
Growing up & Maturi	ty
Culture & Heritage	
The Power of Langua	age

PRE-LEARNING REFLECTION

For each of the following skills, rate your own proficiency <i>before</i> studying the novel.	Not yet!	Almost can	I can do	Very Comfortable
I can determine the theme of a story and analyze how it is developed through the literary elements of a text.				
I can identify and cite strong textual evidence to support my inferences and opinions.				
I can explain how an author develops characters through direct and indirect characterization.				
I can identify and explain how word choice impacts meaning and tone in a story.				
I can identify how an author uses imagery to impact meaning and tone.				
I can analyze and explain how an author crafts a story using plot structure : conflict, tension, suspense etc.				
I can write strong literary analysis essays, which are well-structured and detailed.				
I can embed quotations in my writing fluently, and with correct punctuation and format.				

WHAT DO YOU HOPE TO ACHIEVE BY STUDYING THIS NOVEL?

Before studying this text, write down at least **THREE goals** for your own learning:

Background Information

This novel is writted of 44 short scenes and focus closely of character, to give about that character setting, and/or object the word 'vignette' of French vigne mean and the term came vines drawn on the patexts. So, like the vin vignettes are little This novel is written as a series of 44 short scenes which zoom in and focus closely on a moment or character, to give a vivid picture about that character, an idea, setting, and/or object.

These are known as vignettes.

The word 'vignette' comes from the French vigne meaning "little vine," and the term came from the small vines drawn on the pages of printed texts. So, like the vines on the page, vignettes are little sections of a much bigger work.

Vignettes are *mostly* descriptive. They often include little or no plot development. They are not stand-alone literary works, nor are they complete plots or narratives. Instead, vignettes are small parts of a larger work, and when placed together they combine to create a complete story.

Why write as a series of vignettes?

In the following extract (from the 25th anniversary ed. of the text), Cisneros explains why she wrote the novel as a series of vignettes. Note that she is talking about her younger self, and so is writing in the 3rd person.

"She thinks people who are busy working for a living deserve beautiful little stories, because they don't have much time and are often tired. She has in mind a book that can be opened at any page and will still make sense to the reader who doesn't know what came before or comes after."

What about that title?

The house from the title is a combination of the author's many homes, but is placed on a street, 'Mango Street', where the Cisneros family never actually lived.



the author

Sandra **Cisneros** born in Chicago in 1954, the only daughter in a Mexican-American family of seven children. She had many home spaces as her family traveled frequently between Chicago and Mexico, often settling in a different house upon each return.

Cisneros started writing at a young age: encouraged by a teacher, she began writing poetry in high school, worked on her school literary magazine, and then even deciding to study English at University. She went on to work as a teacher, while still investing in her own writing in her spare time.

Cisneros received National Endowment for the Arts fellowship in 1982, allowing her to focus on her writing. She published The House on Mango Street in 1984, which was a huge success and even won the American Book Award.

Drawing on the unsettled nature of her own childhood, as well as her identity as the only girl growing up with many brothers, the novel creates an vivid picture of one girl's search for a sense of belonging and identity.

After reading the information on this page, think about and discuss the following questions:

- How is a vignette different to a short story?
- What might be the possible pros and cons of the vignette form?
- Why did Cisneros decide to write The House on Mango Street as a series of vignettes?
- What type of story do you think might suit the vignette form?
- How did the author's own childhood influence her writing?
- What do you predict might be the main topics/ themes of the novel?
- Who do you think is Cisneros' intended reader?



As you read through the novel, **keep coming back to this page** to make notes on the important topic of home, **family and community**.

BIG CONCEPTS Home, Family & Community

List key **chapters** which relate to this topic:

Events / Situations in the novel which relate to this topic:

Questions you have about how this topic relates to the narrator & other characters:



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Key Quotations		
Quote	Chp.	Page #

Personal links and connections:

Thoughts on what **you** think Cisneros might be saying about this topic:



As you read through the novel, keep coming back to this page to make notes on the importo	ant
topic of identity, growth and maturity.	

BIG CONCEPTS Identity and Maturity

List key chapters whic	h
relate to this topic:	

Events / Situations in the novel which relate to this topic:

Key Quotations

Quote	Chp.	Page #
	->	
	1	
		1
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Thoughts on what **you** think Cisneros might be saying about this topic:



As you read through the novel, **keep coming back to this page** to make notes on the important topic of **girls and women**.

BIG CONCEPTS Girls and Women

List key chapters which relate to this topic:	Events / Situations in the novel which relate to this topic:

Questions you have about how this topic relates to the narrator & other characters:

Personal	links and	l connections	٠.
rei Sullat	uniks and	i COHHECTIONS	١.

Thoughts on what **you** think Cisneros might be saying about this topic:

Key Quotations

Quote	Cnp.	Page #
		(

As you read through the novel, **keep coming back to this page** to make notes on the important topic of **race**, **foreignness**, **and culture**.

BIG CONCEPTS Foreignness & Culture

	- totordiffeon a antimo
List key chapters which relate to this topic:	Events / Situations in the novel which relate to this topic:

Questions you have about how this topic relates to the narrator & other characters:

FOREIGNNESS &

, 10-1 Main (16-0 - 10	Key	Quotations
-------------------------	-----	------------

Quote	Chp.	Page #

Personal links and connections:

Thoughts on what **you** think Cisneros might be saying about this topic:

As you read through the novel, keep cor	ning back to this page to make notes on the important
topic of social class.	

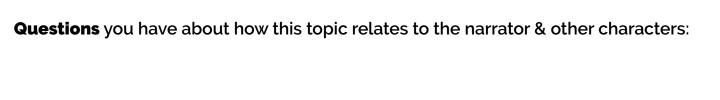
BIG CONCEPTS Social Class

List key chapters which	1
relate to this topic:	

Events / Situations in the novel which relate to this topic:

Key Quotations

Quote	Chp.	Page #
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MALCLASS SOCIAL CLASS

Personal links and connections:

Thoughts on what **you** think Cisneros might be saying about this topic:

- U

The House on Mango Street

The House on Ma $_{\#}^{\text{Vignelle}}$	ango Street	List the POSITIVE aspects of the house on Mango Street:
The narrative perspective is: first-person third-person second-person third-person This creates a feeling of Describe the narrator: (in as much detail a	n omniscient n limited	Is it the narrator's
Sketch Elabel the house as it is descri	ibed	Identify what you think is an important quotation from this opening vignette:
		What does the final line of this vignette illustrate about the narrator and her parents? She has a bad relationship with her parents. Her parents often disappoint her. She thinks that her parents are liers. She is hopeful that they will move again soon. She is very perceptive and insightful. Her parents often make promises they don't keep.
Cisneros uses lots of descriptive Key words used to describe her mother's hair:	She describes the smell of her mother's hair as	Hairs int vivid pictures in the reader's mind. What do these descriptions tell us about her relationship with her mother?

Identify a **SIMILE** in this vignette:

How is the topic of gender introduced in the	nis vignette?		*Go back to the "Big Concepts" pages and co the opening three vigne	
What is a METAPHOR			red balloon, a balloon tied to an a netaphor illustrates about the narrator'	
Who was the narrator named after?	······································	your fe	elings about your own name (or nickname):	
Why doesn't the narrator like her name?	?			
If her name were a color, it would be:				
What deeper point I have inherited Ner name, but I don't want to inherit her place by the window.		•	about her dreams for the future?	
Identify words/lines which relate to the			Cathy Queen of Cats	Vignette #5
issue of poverty, shame, and social class:	Cathy's family is prejudiced.	☐ True☐ False	Eviden	ce / Explanation
	Cathy is down-to-earth and humble.	☐ True ☐ False	Evideno	ce / Explanation



Making INFERENCES

Why doesn't Cathy want to befriend Rachel & Lucy?

But Esperanza does, which shows that she is...

girls' social status A quote which shows tha

Imagine Esperanza had Twitter.

Write her status at the end of the day.



A line in this vignette which shows the happiness the narrator feels:



laughter is compared to: laughter is compared to:

Rachel & Lucy's | Esperanza & Nenny's

Create a **SIMILE** to describe your own laughter:

How would you describe the narrator's relationship with her sister?

Give this vignette an alternative **TITLE**:

Analyze a key topic: Culture & Heritage

List, write, doodle, or mind-map how this topic is illustrated in this vignette:



Gil's Furniture Bought & Sold

Then he starts it up and all sorts of things start happening. It's like all of a sudden he let go a million moths all over the dusty furniture and swanneck shadows and in our bones. It's like drops of water. Or like marimbas only with a funny little plucked sound to it like if you were running your fingers across the teeth of a metal comb.

Highlight ONE of the similes in this extract, and then explain below how the comparison illustrates the effect on the narrator's emotions $\frac{1}{2}$

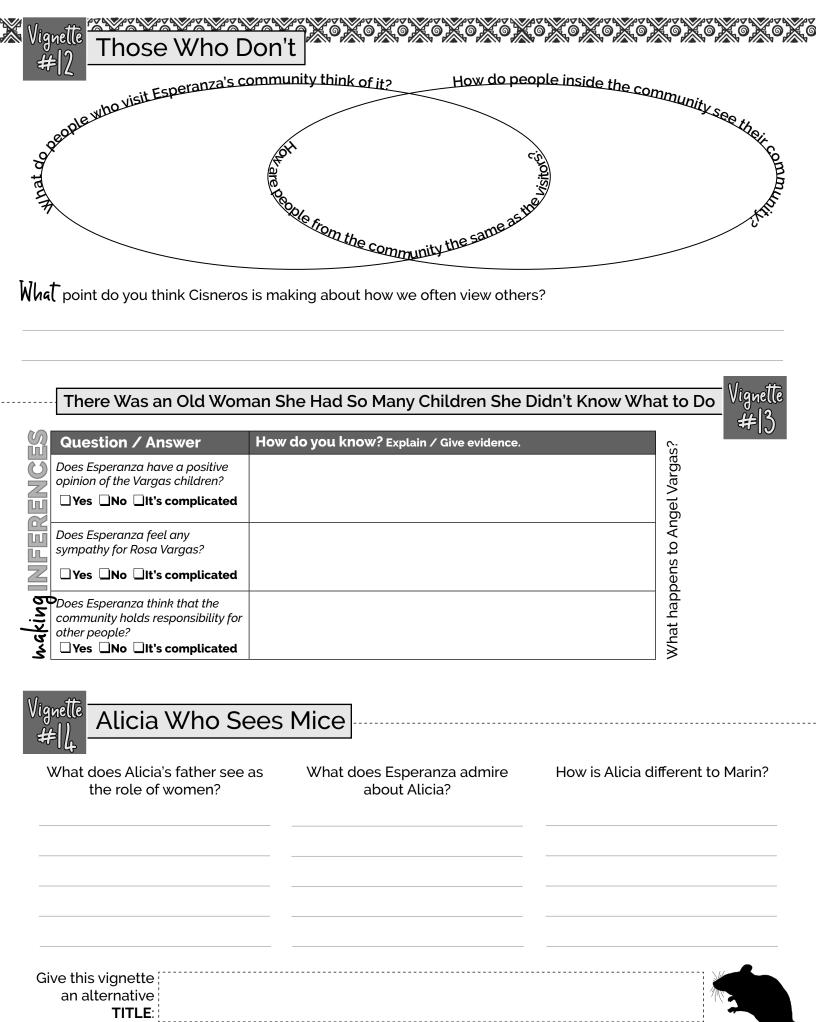
Can you describe a time when you were a child and did something daring or risky like the children do in the First Annual Tarzan Jumping Contest?

Esperanza describes her neighbors in detail; what does this convey about the type of **communily** she lives in?



Vignette Louie, His Cousin & H	His Other Cous	in
Why do you think Louie's cousin drives the ch	wildly ERENCES hildren around? ### In the control of the control	do you think that Louie's cousin reacts / when he hears the sirens? He has heard of situations of police brutality. The car he is driving is stolen. He is driving without a license. He has an illegal number of people in the car. He is wanted for a crime. Other:
Home, Family & Community	•	story of the Cadillac is narrated emphasize the narrator is a young child?
Home, Family & Community and significant they are as core concepts in this vignette. (1-most / 4-least) Foreignness & Culture Women & Girls Women & Girls	Content	Words / language
Who is Marin?	oo o charac	ter name: Marin Vignette
Why does she sit outside at night?	ther character mentioned viously and compare and contrast them with Marin	larities:
Summarize why Esperanza likes her:	l jo g	erences:
What is meant by: "Marin is already older than us in may ways"?	Pick ar	
	Do you think	IVOC ING INGOVIGO

dreams will come true?



For Esperanza, Darius & the Clouds what does the \$kg symbolize? ☐ A feeling of deep sadness ☐ A place of peace and security ☐ The potential for beauty Do you find peace and security in nature, or natural elements? ☐ The great equalizer in an unfair world Explain why (or when) or why not. ☐ A world of possibilities ☐ Other: _ A quote which shows that Esperanza's community is not a very pretty place: 77 Vignette And Some More The Family of Little Feet TWO reasons The dialogue between the four girls in why the heels might be dangerous: Them are dangerous, this chapter is not written conventionally with quotation marks. Why do you think he says. You girls Cisneros decided to write like this? too young to be wearing Shoes like that. How do **men** react to the girls wearing heels? Do you enjoy this style choice? **Yes ∐No** why or why not? Rank each of the following in terms of how prominent and significant they are as core concepts in this vignette. (1-most / 4-least) Home, Family & Community ***** Go back to the "Big **Social Class** Concepts" pages and complete **Identity & Maturity** for your top two, and how they are Foreignness & Culture evidenced in this How else does Cisneros create the vignette. Women & Girls sense of an active, impassioned conversation between the girls? Think about the **high heel shoes**, then finish the following sentences: At first I thought __ But now I realize _

A Rice Sandy 3 reasons Esperanza uses to convince her mother to le take a packed lunch to school the school to th	try to t her ol:	sic is illustrated in this vignette:	List, write, doodle, or mind-map how this	Identify what you think is an important quotation from this vignette:
Which of the following words relate to the narrator's emotions in this vignette? Conflicted Proud check of Irritated of Indifferent Identity Angry Power Shame Sad Amusing Complex Understood Cultural Maturing	What e	evidence is there that E	Self-conscious	eling S at the party?
Identify a SI Signature of the state of the	MILE used to describe hips: the girls' discussion about te about the expectations their society?	How is Nenny different to the other girls? Is Esperanza protect of Nenny were an animal, she would be because	etive of Nenny?	o anymore."

The First Job

This shows us that

Why does Esperanza's father send his children to Catholic school?	he is	S
his children to Catholic school?		

- ☐ He is very religious.
- ☐ He has a very negative opinion of public schools.
- ☐ He went to Catholic school himself.
- \square He wants to appear wealthy.

Why do you think Esperanza lets Tito push her?

How might Esperanza feel when the older man forces her into kissing him?

Are these two events as bad as each other?

JYes

JNo

draw your own cactus here







How is	
COLOR	
used in this	
vignette to	
help paint a	
picture and	
illustrate	
Esperanza's	
feelings	
about her	
aunt?	

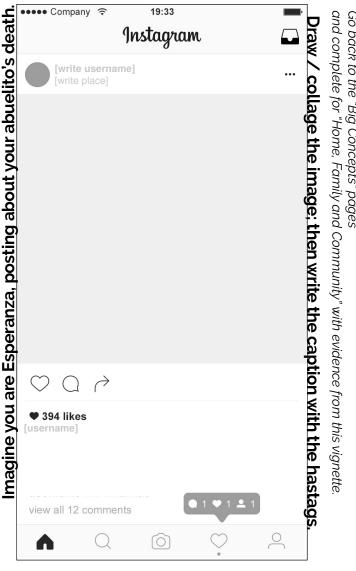
Identify an example of **PERSONIFICATION** used:

44

List all the negative words used in to describe Aunt Lupe.

Papa Who Wakes Up Tired in the Dark





Elenita, Cards, Palm, Water	Vignette #21
Why is Esperanza disappointed with the fortune she is read?	374
What might "a home in the heart" mean?	H

Geraldo No Nar SIX key phrases used to describe G What point do you think Cisneros is	What do these details tell us about h	"That's the story. That's what she said again and again. Once to the hospital people and twice to the police. No address. No name. Nothing in his pockets. Ain't it a shame." Circle a word above which you think is key to the author's underlying message about the deeper theme. What is the TONE of the last line above? us in this vignette?
Edna's Ruthie FINFERENCES Do you think that Ruthie has an intellectual disability? Yes No Evidence, or reason:	In what way is Ruthie trapped ? If Ruthie were an animal, she would be: because	Identify what you think is an important quotation from this vignette:
This vignette is packed with description can find examples of each of the follow	and imagery. See if you L	Earl of Tennessee
SIMILE		
PERSONIFICATION ONOMATOPOEIA		
ONOMATOPOEIA	(C) STACEY LLOYD 2019	

						Mo en
Esperanza is not scared of the boys outside.	☐ True☐ False	Explanation		"Everything is ho its bi	Sire_	Vignell #28
Esperanza feels superior to Sire's girlfriend.	☐ True☐ False	Explanation		What does Esperd ☐ She feels scare ☐ She feels excite	anza mean by d and anxious. ed about the	
Esperanza desires to be more grown up.	☐ True ☐ False	Explanation		possibility of de She is uncomfor Sire's attention She is hiding he her parents.	rtable about	1
In what way	s is E	speranza Similar to t	he four skinny trees?	Four Skinny	Trees	Vignett #2°
Physical appe				Personality traits —		
	Plac	e/belonging		Sense of	community -	
By what is Mai	······································	transada		No Speak E	nglish	Vignett #3(
By What is Mai	macita	(тарреоц?	What are the 2 possible meanings of the title ?			A characte
			Why do you think	that Mamacita doesn't lear	n English?	r who r
Find a quot	e to sł eranza	now that tries to empathize :	speak the lang □ She misses he get integrated	erica and so doesn'	t want to	A character who Mamacita resemble

 \square She doesn't want to talk to her husband.



Rafaela Who Drinks Coconut & Papaya Juice on Tuesdays

A character who Rafaela is similar to:

*You might need to look it up!

whatis ALLUSION?

How & why is allusion used in this vignette?

Pick a **color** to symbolize Rafaela:



Minerva Writes Poems

found POETRY

- Re-read the vignette, thinking about the deeper theme.
 As you read, underline any sentences, phrases, or key words which you think are essential to the theme.
- Get a scrap piece of paper. Write out 8-10 phrases or groups of words you have underlined.
- Spend time making these lines into a poem. You may need to add in your own words, rearrange lines, etc.

Remember: poems don't need to rhyme, but do think about line structure, imagery, rhythm, and tone.

4. Once you are happy with your poem, give it a **title**, and then write it out below.

Title:			



What is the reality of Sally's life?

Can you think of somebody you know who people seem to judge, yet you know there is more to them
than meets the eye? Explain (but don't use real names).
7

Bums in the Attic



Which of the following lines illustrates Esperanza's ability for empathy?

- ☐ "I don't tell them I am ashamed—all of us staring out the window like the hungry."
- ☐ "They don't look down at all except to be content to live on hills."
- ☐ "I'll offer them the attic, ask them to stay. because I know how it is to be without a house."
- ☐ "Bums, I'll say, and I'll be happy."

Esperanza still longs for her own home, but how has that vision changed?

	e begun my own quiet war. Simple. Sure." at is this 'war' Esperanza has starte	Beautiful & Cruel	Vignette #35
What are the differences between Esperanza & Nenny?			
Esperanza's mother says "I could've be Of whom is something similar said? Why type of talents does her mother have Why type of intelligence does her mother Why did her mother not pursue education What advice does Esperanza's mother g personal THOUGHTS Sally said, "He never hits me hard."	ve? er lack? en?	*Go back to the "Big Concepts" pages and complete for your top two, and he they are evidenced in this vignette. Home, Family & Co social Class Identity & Mate Foreignness & Cul What Sally Said	mmunity writy
#the family that spoke like guitars" Graph Gra	Th What might the Monkey Gard represent for the children?	why does Esperanza get so angry in this vignette? So angry in this vignette? Characterists and the set of the set o	Vignette #38

ask Esperanza at this point, if you could:

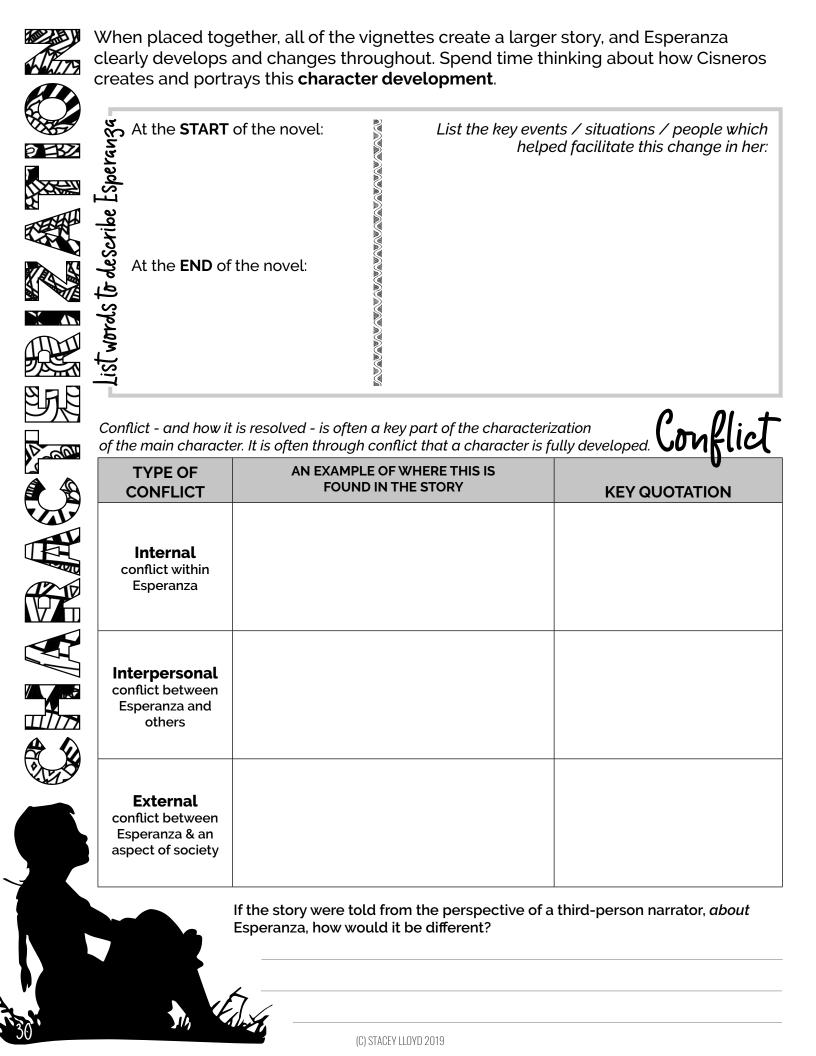
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7

Who is Esperanza mowith in this vignett Do you think that this is be angry with? Explain your choice:	st angry te?	Rank each of the following in terms of how prominent and significant they are vignette. (1-most / 4-least) vignette. (1-most / 4-least) Women & Girls	Which of the following Esperanza's emotions Pride Empa Deale Confusion Mature How does Cisneros so through her use of la	as in this vignette? athy
Were you s	surprised that Sally got because On the other	hand, NO because	Do you feel hopeful	for Sally? Yes No
ens in this vignette:	ree Sisters That do you think Esper That do you think the sine says, "remember to the others"?	ster means when	Analyze a key topic:	List, write, doodle, or mind-map how this topic is illustrated in this vignette: Ty Ty

do Alicia's words echo the advice Esperanza received in the previous vignette?	Alicia & I Tall	king on Edna's St	teps Vignett
Do you think that Esperanza is more or less likely to take this advice when it comes from Alicia? More Less Why?	☐ It is a fun, cheerform Nobody really cand They really hate and It is somewhere with Imagine Esperan Write	res about it; it's seen as unim authority figures. which doesn't photograph we	nportant.
How many times is "MY" written? Rank each of the following She wants to live somewhere other than Mango Street.	why does is any in terms of how much of the wants to be completely	Speranza So deeply desire of a motivating factor you think to the want her life to revolve to around men.	She wants to have her own belongings.
In your own words, explain what you think Esperanza means when she says the the house I belong but do not belong to.	hat Mango Street is	Pick a color to symbolize to of this final chapter: Give a reason for your choice.	the tone
Identify what you think is the most importar quotation from this final vignette:		" I have gone away to For the ones I left behin For the ones w Who might Esperanza be about here? List at least the prominent, in your opinion.	ho cannot out." e thinking

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For each of the following, describe their significance in the novel, and explain the symbolism.



SHOES

THE HOUSE ON MANGO STREET







POETRY / WRITING

Pick another of your own: