

Name: _____ pd. ____

House on Mango Street p. 17-30

Laughter

1. How are Nenny and Esperanza alike? How are Rachel and Lucy alike?
2. What did the houses represent to Esperanza? Did she know exactly why they represented this? Why or why not?
3. A major theme of the novel is continued in this chapter. Esperanza and Nenny both see a house as “like Mexico.” What does this show about Esperanza’s idea of a home? Is her idea limited to a physical structure? Why or why not?
4. How does is the laughter of the two sets of sisters described? How does this contribute to the family between the sisters?

Gil’s Furniture, Bought and Sold

1. How does the personality difference between the two sisters show up in the store?

Meme Ortiz

1. Who is Meme?
2. How are Meme and the dog alike?
3. What words does Esperanza use to describe Meme? How do these words create a word picture of Meme?

Louie, His Cousin and His Other Cousin

1. Where does Louie live?
2. Who are his cousins?

3. Why were people so interested in the yellow Cadillac?

4. Where does Louie's cousin get the Cadillac?

5. What happened to Louie's cousin?

6. Why doesn't Esperanza focus on the theft as she tells the story? Why does she focus more on the car and the ride than on the fact that the cousin committed a crime?

Marin

1. Who is Marin?

2. Why is she unable to leave her house?

3. How does she plan to change her situation?

4. Why do Esperanza and her friends admire her?

5. How is Marin like Esperanza's grandmother? How is she similar to other women in the story? How is she different from other women in the story?

Those Who Don't

1. How do outsiders view Esperanza's neighborhood?

2. How do the people who live in Esperanza's neighborhood view it?

3. How does Esperanza feel when she drives "into a neighborhood of another color?"

4. What lines in this chapter create the sense of separation that the narrator feels? Does she believe that this will change?