

**BOOK REVIEW – Page 28**  
(Cultural or Human Rights Essay)

Cisneros, Sandra. The House on Mango Street  
New York: Random House, 1984.

**“Those Who Don’t”**

**Complete the following:**

1) In "Those Who Don't," Esperanza claims that her neighborhood is frightening to some people. Why?

2) What does Esperanza say about the people who are afraid of her neighborhood

3) Does Esperanza fear her neighbors? Yes or no? If yes, why is she afraid? If no, why is she not afraid of her neighbors?

**4) On a separate sheet of paper write a (3)-paragraph essay about the following:**

a) Describe the people in your current or previous neighborhood who were the most feared by outsiders.

b) If Esperanza were describing your neighborhood, what is meant by her comment, "All brown all around, we are safe?"

c) Review how Epseranza described what happens when she or her neighbors drove into the neighborhood of another ethnic group? What similar experience(s) have you had and write about the Human Rights violation that best fits your experience.

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**“There Was an Old Woman”**

**Complete the following:**

- 1) In "There Was an Old Woman..." who is the woman in the story?
- 2) How does Esperanza describe the woman in the story?
- 3) What do you think is Esperanza's attitude or feeling about the woman?
- 4) Describe the woman's children.
- 5) Does anyone other than the mother of these kids care about them? Yes or no? If yes, who and why? If no, why?
- 6) In "Alicia Who Sees Mice," do you think the mice really exist? Write about that part of the story that convinces you that the mice do or do not exist.
- 7) What happened to Alicia's mother and what did Alicia inherit?

**8) On a separate piece of paper write a (3)-paragraph essay about the following:**

- a) What Human Right(s) are violated by a single parent with more children than they can financially afford?
- b) Write about the kids in your neighborhood that remind you of Rosa's children.
- c) Write what you feel about Alicia's inheritance and how you would handle such an inheritance.

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**“Darius and the Clouds”**

1) In "Darius and the Clouds," Esperanza writes, "you can never have too much sky." In your own words, write about Esperanza's impression of the sky.

2) How does Esperanza describe Darius?

3) Darius said something wise. What did he say?

4) In "And Some More," Rachel says, "...clouds got at least ten different names." How does Darius's heavenly view of the clouds differ from Rachel's earthly view of the clouds?

**5) On a separate sheet of paper write (3)-paragraph essay about the following:**

- a) Your view of Darius's cloud image and including why you feel that Darius's cloud comment is wise?
- b) In your opinion what is Darius's view of God or higher power?
- c) What is your view of a higher power?
- d) Write about a time when your Human Right to a practice your religious beliefs was violated.

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**“The Family of Little Feet”**

**Complete the Following:**

- 1) In "The Family of Little Feet," describe grandpa's feet.
- 2) How is grandma's feet described?
- 3) In what ways are the baby's feet different from grandma's?
- 4) The mother's feet are described as polite. What is implied in Esperanza's comment about "polite feet?"
- 5) Rachel teaches Lucy and Esperanza "to walk down to the corner so that the shoes talk back to you with every step." What does Rachel's lesson teach Lucy and Esperanza?
- 6) What is Mr. Benny's concern for Rachel, Lucy, & Esperanza and what warning does he give to them?
- 7) What proposition does the Bum man offer Rachel?
- 8) Who does not like the Bum man's proposition and why?
- 9) The shoes are thrown out by Lucy's mother and the girls do not complain. Why?
- 10) On a separate sheet of paper write a (3)-paragraph essay about the following:
  - a) Write about the time that you were so frightened by someone that you ran away from the situation, and discuss how your Human Rights were violated by this incident.

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(Human Rights Essay)

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**“A Rice Sandwich”**

**Complete the following:**

- 1) What is a canteen?
- 2) What did Esperanza want her mother to agree to?
- 3) Why did Esperanza's mother object to Esperanza's wish?
- 4) Esperanza recalls sandwiches without meat? What were the sandwiches with no meat?
- 5) How did Esperanza persuade her mother to grant her the special wish?
- 6) How did Esperanza persuade Sister Superior to give her what she wanted?

**7) On a separate sheet of paper write a (3)-paragraph essay about one of the following:**

- a) When during your childhood did you need to feel special? How old were you?
- b) What were the circumstances (what happened)?
- c) Were you able to convenience someone else to give you your wish?
- d) Describe what you said and did that convenience the other person.
- e) In hindsight, if you had an opportunity to change this special time in your past, what would you change?

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(Cultural Essay)

Cisneros, Sandra. The House on Mango Street  
New York: Random House, 1994.

**“Chanclas”**

*In "Chanclas" (shoes) Esperanza is overly concerned about her shoes.*

**Complete the following:**

- 1) What did Mama forget to buy Esperanza
- 2) Was being celebrated? \_\_\_\_\_. Why
- 3) Mama got sick during the dancing celebration. Uncle Nacho says to many  
“\_\_\_\_\_”. What does this mean?
- 4) What are saddle shoes?
- 5) How does Esperanza describe her feet when dancing with Uncle Nacho?
- 6) While dancing, Esperanza forgot about something. What was it?
- 7) On a separate sheet of paper write a (3)-paragraph essay about the following:
  - a) On what special occasion did your shoes not match your clothing (outfit)?
  - b) What statement does your shoes make about you.
  - c) Write about a time when your shoes and clothing made you feel uncomfortable.

**BOOK REVIEW — page 49**  
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**In "Hips," Esperanza has some interesting views.**

- 1) What does Esperanza say hips are good for?
- 2) What does Lucy say hips are good for?
- 3) What does Nenny say about hips?

**In "*The First Job*," Esperanza learned something new.**

- 4) Who found Esperanza her first job
- 5) Describe Esperanza's work at her first job?
- 6) How did Esperanza learn her new job?

**In "*Papa... Wakes Up*," something very sad happens.**

- 7) Esperanza's papa mourns the death of whom?
- 8) What role does Esperanza play in this scenario (what does she do

**On a separate sheet of paper write a (3)-paragraph essay about one of the following:**

- 1) What myth have you heard about hips
- 2) Who helped you find your first job?
- 3) What was your first job title?
- 4) What was the one positive thing that you learned from your first job?
- 5) Esperanza's innocence is challenged by the death of a family member. An older man again challenges her innocence. What was a similar challenge for you and what Human Right was violated?

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(Cultural Essay)

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**“Born Bad”**

**Complete the following:**

- 1) In “*Born Bad*,” what did Esperanza's mother say about her birthday?
- 2) With reference to Aunt Luce what did, Esperanza do that was shameful
- 3) What did Esperanza share with Aunt Lupe?
- 4) After Aunt Lupe’s death Esperanza began to what

**In “Elenita, Cards, Palm, Water,” mysteries unfold.**

- 5) Who is Elenita?
- 6) What was Esperanza’s palm reading message?
- 7) In "Edna's Ruthie, how is Ruthie related to Edna?

What is Ruthie's problem?

**Based on the above readings, select one of the following choices, and write a three-paragraph essay:**

- a) "Born Bad," and "Elenita..." are stories about superstitious beliefs. Describe one of your superstitious beliefs.
- b) What myths (stories) have you heard about fortune-tellers?
- c) Identify a person that you know by first name or nickname and describe your relationship to the person who has no last name.
- d) In "Edna's Ruthie, the daughter seemingly suffers emotional problems. Describe the person that you knew who has an emotional disorder similar to Ruthie’s.