



**BOOK REVIEW – Page 72**  
(Cultural or Human Rights Essay)

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

**“SIZE”**

**Complete the following:**

- 1) In "Sire," Esperanza walked passed Sire's house. What were Sire and his friends doing?
- 2) Other girls feared Sire and his friends. What do other girls do to avoid Sire and his friends?
- 3) What did Esperanza do to prove that she did not fear Sire?
- 4) Esperanza calls Sire a name. What name does she call him?
- 5) What is Sire's girlfriend's name?
- 6) Describe Sire's girlfriend?
- 7) What does Esperanza's mama say about girls like Sire's girlfriend?
- 8) Esperanza feels as though she is going to explode. Why?

**Essay Assignment.** On a separate sheet of paper write a (3)-paragraph essay about someone who reminds you of Sire or Esperanza in this story and include one of the following::

- a) Did you fear the person who reminds you of Sire and his friends?
- b) ) How did you overcome your fears of kids who remind you of Sire?
- c) When did you want to explode or "sit out bad at night," thereby breaking the good girl or good boy image? Describe the situation.

**BOOK REVIEW – page 74**  
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**“Four Skinny Trees”**

- 1) In "Four Skinny Trees," how does Esperanza describe the trees?
- 2) What does Esperanza say about the strength of the trees and the tree's roots?
- 3) What role does the sun play in the story?
- 4) What are the trees doing while Esperanza is sleeping?
- 5) Why does Esperanza look at the trees?
- 6) What does Esperanza say is the reason for the trees existence?

**Essay Assignment:** On a separate sheet of paper write a (3)-paragraph essay about a tree in your neighborhood and include the following:

- a) Describe the trees in your neighborhood
- b) What made you notice the trees in your yard, school, or Neighborhood Park?
- c) How are the trees you described similar to the trees in Esperanza's story?
- d) Esperanza says the four skinny trees are the only ones who understand her. What is your relationship with the trees in your neighborhood?

**BOOK REVIEW – page 76**  
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**“No Speak English”**

**Complete the Following:**

- 1) In "No Speak English," who is the main character in the story?
- 2) How does Esperanza describe the main character?
- 3) The main character arrived in town with whom?
- 4) The main character is seldom seen after her arrival. Why?
- 5) What did Esperanza's father eat when he first arrived in the US ? Why?
- 6) Why does the man get disgusted with the main character?
- 7) What does the man want the main character to do?
- 8) What does the main character not want the little boy to do?

**Essay Assignment.** On a separate sheet of paper write a (3)-paragraph essay a time when someone insisted that you speak only Standard English in public places:

- a) How did you feel when you were asked stop speaking your private language in public?
- b) Did you want to object to the request that you not speak your first language in a public place? Yes or No? If yes, what would you say to the request? If no, why do you have no objection?
- c) If you were criticized for using your first language in public, how do you think you would respond to the requester (e.g., teacher or employer)? Is the request a Human Rights violation and what Human Right has been violated?

**BOOK REVIEW – page 79**  
(Human Rights Essay)

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New York: Random House, 1984.

**“Rafaela Who Drinks Coconut...Juice....”**

**Complete the following:**

- 1) In "Rafaela Who Drinks ...Papaya Juice..." what happens to her in the story?
  
- 2) Where does Rafaela wish she could go?
  
- 3) Why can't Rafaela go to the store for herself?
  
- 4) How is her drink delivered to her?

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

- a) Help Rafaela imagine a life outside the room where her husband holds her captive. What is the life that you imagine for her
- b) What job do you imagine for Rafaela and how much would her earn weekly?
- c) Has Rafaela's Human Rights been violated by her husband? Yes or No. If yes, what Human Right has been violated and how does violating the Right affect Rafaela? If no, how has she not been violated?

**BOOK REVIEW - page 81**  
(Cultural Essay)

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

**“Sally”**

**Complete the following:**

- 1) In "Sally," who is Sally?
- 2) What do the boys at school think about Sally?
- 3) What does Sally's father say about being beautiful?
- 4) What does Esperanza say about Sally's religion?
- 5) What does Esperanza say about wearing black clothing?
- 6) Sally has to go straight home after school. Esperanza says that Sally becomes different. Describe how Sally is different?

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**Essay Assignment:** On a separate sheet of paper write a (3) paragraph essay about a time when you felt your parents were being too strict about your dress, free-time, and your movie viewing, and include a statement about whether your Human Rights were violated. What Human Right was violated?

**BOOK REVIEW — page 84**  
(Cultural or Human Rights Essay)

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

**“Minerva”**

- 1) In "Minerva," how is she described?
- 2) Minerva is a writer. What kind of writer is Minerva?
- 3) Esperanza says Minerva is sad like what?
- 4) What is Minerva's big problem?
- 5) What lesson does Minerva learn?

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**Essay Assignment:** On a separate sheet of paper write a (3)-paragraph essay write about a person that you know who had a stormy relationship with their husband, wife or partner and include the following:

- a) Describe the violence in the relationship?
- b) If given an opportunity what advice would you offer regarding this couple?
- c) How can writing poetry help the person who is involved in the violent relationship? How is this person's Human Rights violated and Human Right is violated?

**BOOK REVIEW – page 86**  
(Cultural or Human Rights Essay)

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New York: Random House, 1984.

**“Bums in the Attic”**

**Complete the following:**

- 1) In "Bums in the Attic," what kind of house does Esperanza want for herself?
  
- 2) Esperanza says, "people who live on hills sleep close to the stars, and they forget those of us who live too much on earth." What does this statement mean?
  
- 3) What will Esperanza do when she become a homeowner?
  
- 4) On a separate sheet of paper write a (3)-**paragraph** essay write about a person who is homeless or struggling to exist without employment and include one of the following:
  - 1) How do you feel about the homeless person’s struggle?
  - 2) Who is responsible for the fate of the financially destitute or homeless person?
  - 3) What is your responsibility to the struggling (homeless) person?
  - 4) Do homeless people have a Human Right to housing even though they have no job? Yes or No. If yes, why? If no, why not?
  - 5) Are homeless people’s Human Rights violated? What is the Human Right violation?