

## The House on Mango Street—Map Project

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Period: \_\_\_\_\_

**Overview:** Sandra Cisneros' novel presents vivid details, lively metaphors, and symbols about Esperanza's life and the lives of dozens of others who live on Mango Street. Each chapter introduces the reader to more characters, conflicts and places in the neighborhood. Since each chapter seems to be its own story, it is sometimes hard to imagine that all of this is happening in or around the same block.

**Directions:** In a group of 2-3 people, you will be creating, illustrating and annotating a map of Mango Street. Include the following pieces in your map:

1. Draw a map that accurately locates *at least* 10 of the character's houses, apartments, stores, etc. on Mango Street. You may also add other significant features of the neighborhood like pets, objects, trees, etc.
2. Select one quotation from the novel for each building or feature of the street and copy it onto your map in a physically or symbolically appropriate location. (For example if I were talking about Esperanza's house, I might write the quotation "It's small and red with tight steps in front and windows so small you'd think they were holding their breath" (4) on the windows of the house.)
3. Identify and list the characters that live in each house/apartment and the significant events that happen at each location. (i.e. Mama, Papa, Carlos, Kiki, Esperanza and Nenny all live at 4006 Mango Street. Or, in his backyard, Meme Ortiz wins the First Annual Tarzan Jumping Contest and breaks both arms).
4. Illustrate your map using appropriate colors and images from the novel. Recall the significant images and metaphors that we have discussed in this class and use them to illustrate your map. Recall that Esperanza's house has "crumbling steps" and a "swollen front door" and illustrate them accordingly.

**Getting started:** To begin, you and your partner(s) should make a list of all the characters and places you want to include in your map. Use the "Houses in the Book" worksheet that we completed in class to help you organize the details about each location. Keep in mind, however, that there are characters and places that *should* be included but are not on that paper! When you have gathered the information, do a rough draft sketch on binder paper or newsprint.

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**Completing the map:** After you have gotten the necessary approval from me, you will turn your rough sketch and notes into a carefully annotated, thoughtfully illustrated, and artistically prepared map of Mango Street. I will supply poster board and *some* art materials, but you are encouraged to bring in any special supplies, magazine pictures, etc. that you might need to make your map unique. We will spend 3-4 days working in class; if you need extra time you and your group members will need to come before or after school or during lunch.

**Grading criteria:** You will be graded on the quality, thoughtfulness, creativity and accuracy of the sites you draw and the quotes and annotations which support them. Each site on your map can earn you *up to* 10 points:

**3 points** for each site illustration

**3 points** for each quotation

**4 points** for each site identification/annotation (characters, events, symbols)

**10 points X 10 sites on map = 100 points!**

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