

Student Sample: Portfolio Introduction

The book The House on Mango Street by Sandra Cisneros is about a girl named Esperanza who moves to a new house and neighborhood. When she moves to her new house she's pretty upset because the house was so raggedy, and the neighborhood had bad kids, like Joe the Baby Grabber. Even though at the beginning she felt like the neighborhood was bad, and the end of the book she accepted who she was, what her house looked like, where she came from, and what the neighborhood was. At the beginning Esperanza think her house defines her, but at the end she thinks her writing helps her accept who she is. She says, "I put it down on paper and the ghost does not ache so much. I write it down and Mango says goodbye sometimes," (110). Writing helps her feel good about herself. It helps her feel good about how she lives, where she came from, what she looks like, and what her name is.

Some things that you will find in my portfolio are pre-readings about my life, what has happened in it and how it reflects me. Other things about me are my chapter titles and my creative stories. There are also things from the book like the Houses in the Book chart, Double Entry Journal, Open Mind diagram, Hairs Modeling, and a list of similes, metaphors and personifications. Working on this portfolio has

been tiring, staying up every night until about 1:00 am. It also has been educational. I learned what similes, metaphors and personifications are.

Some things I will remember from the book are some of the good and bad times on Mango Street. Good times like when Esperanza, Lucy and Rachel bought a bike, when the girls and boys played in the Monkey Garden, and when Esperanza finally moved to her own house. There were also bad times like when Sally had troubles with her dad, when Sally got married, and when the girls thought they were grown. What I will remember about the portfolio is all the late nights I spent doing it and all the new things I learned, like what similes, metaphors and personifications are. I also will remember the things that had to deal with my life, like the pre-readings, the chapter titles and creative pieces. One of the assignments that really connected to me was pre-reading #8 because it asked me what I want to be when I grow up and how I plan to accomplish it.