

The House on Mango Street – Group Work 79-93 – due at the end of the period –Be focused and get this done by the end of the period (they must be turned in then).

1. How is Rafaela like Rapunzel – how is she even more like one of Esperanza’s ancestors? Be specific in your comparison. What other two characters from the novel does she resemble – why (be specific).

1b. What types of drinks does Rafaela ask for? Consider why: In the film, *It’s a Wonderful Life*, the main character feels like he stuck in the town – unable to leave. As a young man he works at a Soda Shop and he asks his future wife (as a 14 year old girl) if she wants coconuts on her ice-cream – when she says that she doesn’t know, he says “You don’t like coconuts! Say, brainless, don’t you know where coconuts come from? Lookit here (showing her a picture from *The National Geographic Magazine*) from Tahiti, Fiji Islands, the Coral Sea!” – explain the connection with that movie and Rafaela and the significance of the juices – be specific and thoughtful.



1c. What is mentioned about **homes** on the last page of that chapter – how could that specifically serve as a warning to Esperanza?

2a. Why do you think that her father says that to be as beautiful as Sally is trouble? It says that he remembers “his sisters and is sad.” Explain. Earlier, when Esperanza was much younger – an adult warned her and her friends that they needed to take off their high heels (for much the same reason) and later people say that to wear black that young is also dangerous. What kind of connections are people making? Based on what? How is it unfair – how is there a double standard?

2b. At the bottom of 82, she (the narrator) asks if Sally’s feet want her to be taken “far away from Mango Street.” Read through the entire paragraph again. How does Esperanza interject her own beliefs into what she believes Sally must also want? How does that chapter “Sire” fit in to this discussion (go look at it).

2c. How, specifically, can you relate Esperanza’s journey to so many of the characters from *The Things They Carried*? Remember, the incredible opening chapter of that book, listing all of the things that the men who served in Vietnam carried – what does Esperanza carry? Tim O’Brien (the character, and perhaps – just perhaps) carried many things – what did he decide that he had to do in order to lift that weight? Ahhhhhh – think back to Esperanza’s aunt’s advice.

2d. What does she say about the sky (twice at least)? How does this fit in with an earlier comment about the sky (we’ve talked about it a number of times – if you’re unsure, check with someone else working on this).

3. How does “Bums in the Attic” specifically fit in with the previous chapter? Very important: What is different about the house that she mentions on 87 (the 2nd page of the chapter) from previous incarnations of her housely desires? Be as specific and thoughtful as possible. Look at the lyrics to the song on the enclosed box and ask your teacher to play the song – how can you connect these?



4a. How does “Beautiful & Cruel” fit in with the chapters about Sally and Rafaela? What type of woman does Esperanza want to be? Is there a double standard for what is expected of women that she is specifically trying to overturn (does it fit in with the other double-standard you wrote about in question 2)? How does it fit in with at least one (but I think two) poems from our poems before...? Explain.

4b. What does this chapter have to do with the old author’s description (which may or may not be on your books) about Sandra Cisneros (that she is “nobody’s wife and nobody’s mother)? Finally (see aren’t you glad I didn’t make a 4c – well I did (2015)?), how can that last paragraph be compared to the action of a certain character (yes, you have to tell me who) from *Song of Solomon* (think about a certain speech that is made to that character by his sister).

5. Who is the “Smart Cookie”? What does she know how to do? Ok TWO BIG subquestions (answer them both fully) – A. How can this chapter be specifically (use 2 quotes – one from this chapter one from another) be related to a warning about turning out like “Sally”? B. How can this chapter be specifically (yes 2 quotes again) be related to a warning about Esperanza not heeding her Aunt’s very specific advice (as well as what she learns from the fortune teller). OVER for quest 6.

6. Relate "What Sally Said" to *The Return of Martin Guerre* (also think about Pilate's line that if you treat someone like your brother – they are your brother), and then the poem "The Truth" (an excerpt is below – if you can find the entire poem, all the better) about the little boy who is lied to by his mom.

REMEMBER – our final Mango discussion is Tuesday – it is a 300 point quiz and in-class quiz. Be here! Make sure you have *Stuart Little* – our first readings are next week, see the calendar below, be here every day!

Homework – Monday 5/13/18 Work on Project Day **Tuesday** – The House on Mango Street (closing discussion – 300 points). **Weds** – In class Project Day **Thursday** – Stuart Little Part 1 (300 points) Chapters 1-8 **Friday** – Stuart Little Part 2 (300 points) – the rest of the book **May 29th** – Final Project Due

"You and I" by Ingrid Michaelson

Don't you worry, there my honey
We might not have any money
But we've got our love to pay the bills

Maybe I think you're cute and funny,
Maybe I wanna do what bunnies do with you,
If you know what I mean

Oh, let's get rich and buy our parents
Homes in the South of France
Let's get rich and give everybody nice sweaters
And teach them how to dance
Let's get rich and build our house on a mountain
Making everybody look like ants
From way up there, you and I, you and I

Well you might be a bit confused
And you might be a little bit bruised
But baby how we spoon like no one else
So I will help you read those books
If you will soothe my worried looks
And we will put the lonesome on the shelf

Oh, let's get rich and buy our parents
Homes in the South of France
Let's get rich and give everybody nice sweaters
And teach them how to dance
Let's get rich and build our house on a mountain
Making everybody look like ants
From way up there, you and I, you and I

Oh, let's get rich and buy our parents
Homes in the South of France
Let's get rich and give everybody nice sweaters
And teach them how to dance
Let's get rich and build our house on a mountain

From "The Truth" by Randall Jarrell

I didn't get one single thing right.
It seems to me that I'd have thought
It didn't happen, like a dream,
Except that it was light. At night.
They burnt our house down, they burnt down
London.

Next day my mother cried all day, and after that
She said to me when she would come to see me:
"Your father has gone away to Scotland.
He will be back after the war."
The war then was different from the war now.
The war now is nothing.

I used to live in London till they burnt it.
What was it like? It was just like here.
No, that's the truth.
My mother would come here, some, but she
would cry.
She said to Miss Elise, "He's not himself";
She said, "Don't you love me any more at all?"
I was myself.

Finally she wouldn't come at all.
She never said one thing my father said, or Sister.
Sometimes she did,
Sometimes she was the same, but that was when I
dreamed it.

I could tell I was dreaming, she was not the same.
That Christmas she bought me a toy dog.
I asked her what was its name, and when she didn't
know
I asked her over, and when she didn't know

I said, "You're not my mother, you're not my
mother.
She hasn't gone to Scotland, she is dead!"
And she said, "Yes, he's dead, he's dead!"
And cried and cried, she was my mother,
She put her arms around me and cried.

Making everybody look like ants
From way up there, you and I, you and I