

Sandra Cisneros' Feminist Theme in *The House on Mango Street*

The dedication in Sandra Cisneros' *The House on Mango Street* is "A las Mujeres" ("To the Women"). Carefully read the following passage from the vignette "The Family of Little Feet" and provide an argument for why the girls are so enamored with their new high heels and the feminist theme that Cisneros conveys concerning the difficult, sometimes threatening, circumstances that girls have to navigate growing up in our society.

Girls' Beliefs	Concrete Details	Cisneros' Theme
Claim:	<p>Hurray! Today we are Cinderella because our feet fit exactly, and we laugh at Rachel's one foot with the girl's grey sock and a lady's high heel. Do you like these shoes? But the truth is it is scary to look down at your foot that is no longer yours and see attached a long long leg.</p> <p>[. . .] Then Lucy screams to take our socks off and yes, it's true. We have legs. Skinny and spotted with satin scars where scabs were picked, but legs, all our own, good to look at, and long.</p> <p>It's Rachel who learns to walk the best all strutted in those magic high heels. She teaches us to cross and uncross our legs, and to run like a double-dutch rope, and how to walk down to the corner so that the shoes talk back to you with every step. Lucy, Rachel, me tee-tottering like so. Down to the corner where the men can't take their eyes off us. We must be Christmas.</p>	Claim:
Concrete Detail:	<p>Mr. Benny at the corner grocery puts down his important cigar: Your mother know you got shoes like that? Who give you those?</p> <p>Nobody.</p> <p>Them are dangerous, he says. You girls too young to be wearing shoes like that. Take them shoes off before I call the cops, but we just run.</p> <p>On the avenue a boy on a homemade bicycle calls out: Ladies, lead me to heaven.</p> <p>But there is nobody around but us.</p> <p>Do you like these shoes? Rachel says yes, and Lucy says yes, and yes I say, these are the best shoes. We will never go back to wearing the other kind again. Do you like these shoes?</p> <p>In front of the laundromat six girls with the same fat face pretend we are invisible. They are the cousins, Lucy says, and always jealous. We just keep strutting.</p>	Concrete Detail:
Commentary:	<p>Across the street in front of the tavern a bum man on the stoop.</p> <p>Do you like these shoes?</p> <p>Bum man says, Yes, little girl. Your little lemon shoes are so beautiful. But come closer. I can't see very well. Come closer. Please.</p> <p>You are a pretty girl, bum man continues. What's your name, pretty girl?</p> <p>And Rachel says Rachel, just like that.</p> <p>Now you know to talk to drunks is crazy and to tell them your name is worse, but who can blame her. She is young and dizzy to hear so many sweet things in one day, even if it is a bum man's whiskey words saying them. (40-41)</p>	Commentary: