Intersectionality in Sandra Cisneros' *The House on Mango Street*

Intersectionality is a theoretical framework for understanding how a person's various social and political identities—such as gender, race, and class—combine to create different modes of advantage and disadvantage. Carefully read the following excerpts from Sandra Cisneros' *The House on Mango Street* and provide commentary on how these incidents might have impacted Esperanza's understanding of herself as a poor Latina girl.

Gender
Concrete Detail: Alicia, who inherited her mama's rolling pin and sleepiness, is young and smart and studies for the first time at the university. Two trains and a bus, because she doesn't want to spend her whole life in a factory or behind a rolling pin. Is a good girl, my friend, studies all night and sees the mice, the ones her father says do not exist. Is afraid of nothing except four-legged fur. And fathers. (31-32)
Commentary:

Race
Concrete Detail: You want a friend, [Cathy] says. Okay, I'll be your friend. But only till next Tuesday. That's when we move away. Got to. Then as if she forgot I just moved in, she says the neighborhood is getting bad. [. . .] In the meantime they'll just have to move a little farther north from Mango Street, a little farther away every time people like us keep moving in. (13)
Commentary:

Class
Concrete Detail: And then I don't know why, but I have to turn around and pretend I don't care about the box so Nenny won't see how stupid I am. But Nenny, who is stupider, already is asking how much and I can see her fingers going for the quarters in her pants pocket. This, the old man says shutting the lid, this ain't for sale. (20)
Commentary: