

Esperanza's Changing Attitude towards "Home" in Sandra Cisneros' *The House on Mango Street*

In the first vignette of Sandra Cisneros' *The House on Mango Street*, Esperanza expresses disappointment in her house on Mango Street since it is not "like the houses on TV." Consider how Esperanza's attitude towards "home" changes in the following excerpts from the middle of the novel and then provide commentary on how Esperanza's new understanding and appreciation of her "home" reflects the meaning of the work as a whole.

"A Rice Sandwich"
Concrete Detail: You don't live far, she says. You live across the boulevard. [. . .] And then she made me stand up on a box of books and point. That one? she said, pointing to a row of ugly three-flats, the ones even the raggedy men are ashamed to go into. Yes, I nodded even though I knew that wasn't my house and started to cry. (45)
Commentary:

"Elenita, Palms, Cards, Water"
Concrete Detail: What about a house, I say, because that's what I came for. Ah, yes, a home in the heart. I see a home in the heart. Is that <i>it</i> ? [. . .] Only I don't get it. A new house, a house made of heart. I'll light a candle for you. (64)
Commentary:

"No Speak English"
Concrete Detail: Home. Home. Home is a house in a photograph, a pink house, pink as hollyhocks with lots of startled light. The man paints the walls of the apartment pink, but it's not the same, you know. She still sighs for her pink house, and then I see she cries. I would. (77)
Commentary: