

## Esperanza's Emerging Maturity in Sandra Cisneros' *The House on Mango Street*

Consider how Esperanza matures over the course of Sandra Cisneros' *The House on Mango Street* concerning her dreams of having a "real house" one day as opposed to the one she now has on Mango Street. Carefully read the following excerpts and provide commentary on how Esperanza's aspirations and attitudes have changed and how Cisneros uses Esperanza's growth and maturation to reveal "the meaning of the work as a whole."

Before	Concrete Details	After
	<p><i>from "Bums in the Attic":</i></p> <p>People who live on hills sleep so close to the stars they forget those of us who live too much on earth. They don't look down at all except to be content to live on hills. [. . .]</p> <p>One day I'll own my own house, but I won't forget who I am or where I came from. Passing bums will ask, Can I come in? I'll offer them the attic, ask them to stay, because I know how it is to be without a house. (86-87)</p>	
	<p><i>from "Alicia and I Talking on Edna's Steps":</i></p> <p>No, Alicia says. Like it or not you are Mango Street, and one day you'll come back too.            Not me. Not until somebody makes it better.            Who's going to do it? The mayor?            And the thought of the mayor coming to Mango Street makes me laugh out loud.            Who's going to do it? Not the mayor. (107)</p>	
	<p><i>from "A House of My Own":</i></p> <p>Not a flat. Not an apartment in back. Not a man's house. Not a daddy's. A house all my own. With my porch and my pillow, my pretty purple petunias. My books and my stories. My two shoes waiting beside the bed. Nobody to shake a stick at. Nobody's garbage to pick up after.            Only a house quiet as snow, a space for myself to go, clean as paper before the poem. (108)</p>	