

## Marin's Characterization in Sandra Cisneros' *The House on Mango Street*

The novel's narrator, Esperanza, describes her interactions with various characters in her neighborhood on the west side of Chicago, who all make an impression on her and help shape the person that she becomes over the course of the novel. For example, consider how the character of Marin is depicted through dialogue, actions, and description. How does Marin serve as a role model—both positively and negatively—for Esperanza?

Dialogue
Concrete Detail:  Marin says that if she stays here next year, she's going to get a real job downtown because that's where the best jobs are, since you always get to look beautiful and get to wear nice clothes and can meet someone in the subway who might marry you and take you to live in a big house far away. (26)
Commentary:

Action
Concrete Detail:  And since Marin's skirts are shorter and since her eyes are pretty, and since Marin is already older than us in many ways, the boys who do pass by say stupid things like I am in love with those two green apples you call eyes, give them to me why don't you. And Marin just looks at them without even blinking and is not afraid. (27)
Commentary:

Description
Concrete Detail:  Marin, under the streetlight, dancing by herself, is singing the same song somewhere. I know. Is waiting for a car to stop, a star to fall, someone to change her life. (27)
Commentary: