

The Importance of Family in Sandra Cisneros' *The House on Mango Street*

As Esperanza matures over the course of Sandra Cisneros' *The House on Mango Street*, she begins to appreciate her family and the growing importance that they have in her life. Carefully read the following excerpts and provide commentary on what Esperanza learns from the influence of Uncle Nacho, her Papa, and Aunt Lupe and how Cisneros uses Esperanza's emerging maturity to convey the overall theme of her novel.

"Chanclas"
Concrete Detail: And Uncle [Nacho] spins me, and my skinny arms bend the way he taught me, and my mother watches, and my little cousins watch, [. . .] and everyone says, wow, who are those two who dance like in the movies, until I forget that I am wearing only ordinary shoes, brown and white, the kind my mother buys each year for school. (47)
Commentary:

"Papa Who Wakes Up Tired in the Dark"
Concrete Detail: My Papa, his thick hands and thick shoes, who wakes up tired in the dark, who combs his hair with water, drinks his coffee, and is gone before we wake, today is sitting on my bed. And I think if my own Papa died what would I do. I hold my Papa in my arms. I hold and hold and hold him. (57)
Commentary:

"Born Bad"
Concrete Detail: [Aunt Lupe] listened to every book, every poem I read her. One day I read her one of my own. [. . .] That's nice. That's very good, she said in her tired voice. You just remember to keep writing, Esperanza. You must keep writing. It will keep you free, and I said yes, but at that time I didn't know what she meant. (60-61)
Commentary: