

## Symbolism: “A Red Balloon, a Balloon Tied to an Anchor”

When we examine the central metaphor that Esperanza identifies with at the beginning of *The House on Mango Street*, we must also consider how Esperanza will potentially change over the course of the story. How is Esperanza’s initial conception of herself and her relationship to her sister and the rest of her community a sign of her youth and immaturity? How might the meaning of this symbol change with more age and experience?

**Interpretation #1**

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**Interpretation #2**

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**Interpretation #3**

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