*HOUSE ON MANGO STREET*

SOCRATIC DISCUSSION

1. How is Esperanza’s identity shaped by her community? How does her identity shift throughout the vignettes?
2. In The House on Mango Street, Cisneros writes of “those who don’t know” about her neighborhood and the people in it. What is she saying about the way prejudices shape our perceptions of “us” and “them”?
3. Which character does Esperanza most want to emulate and why? Who did she NOT want to become.
4. How is language used to divide and include? What does the language you speak suggest about your connection or disconnection to your culture?
5. How do race and gender come into conflict in *The House on Mango Street*? Does one triumph as the more important concern, or do both issues receive equal consideration?
6. Which character or experience had the greatest impact on Esperanza’s personality or growth? Why?
7. What is the theme of House on Mango Street? What are we supposed to learn?
8. Gender stereotypes are prevalent in on Mango Street. What stereotypes exist in our community, and do they have a positive or negative impact? How do stereotypes impact your choices?
9. What is the most profound/important symbol in the book? Why?
10. What is the most important sentence from the book? Why?