Gender Roles in House on Mango Street

Research gender roles in the Latino and Oriental culture and create a response to the following questions.

1. Why does Cisneros name mostly wives and daughters?
2. Why are wives and daughters expected to stay home>
3. Wy are Hispanic men overly jealous?
4. How do wives overcome prejudice, brutality, disrespect, and the tension of anger and spite?
5. How do other races differ in male expectations of female family members?
6. Wy does the Oriental man take advantage of Esperanza by kissing her against her will?
7. Why does Sandra Cisneros dedicate the book to women?

Thinking about the women in the book:

1. What survival techniques give poor girls and women the strength to face substandard living conditions, loss, delinquency, gossip, death of a child, abuse, hopelessness, disease, loneliness, patriarchy (look me up if you don’t know what I mean) and disappointment.
2. Discuss how some characters keep their dreams alive, particularly
   1. Esparanza
   2. Cathy
   3. Marin
   4. Darius
   5. Mama
   6. Mamacita
   7. Alice
3. Esperanza describes a number of women as possible role models: Marin (26-27), Alicia, (31-32) Sire’s girlfriend Lois (72-73), Sally (81-83, 92-98)
4. What things does she admire about these women?
5. What things can they teach her?

Themes: Boys and girls/Men and Women

1. Cisneros writes, “The boys and girls live in separateworlds,” (pg 8). And Esparanza states, “I have decided not to grow up tame like the others who lay their necks on the threshold waiting for the ball and chain,” (pg 88). How would you sum up the bookds depiction of relations between the sexes in the following chapters:
   * My Name
   * Marin
   * Alicia Who Sees Mice
   * Rafaela Who Drinks Coconut and Papaya Juice on Tuesdays
   * Sally
   * Minerva Writes Poems
   * Beautiful and Cruel
   * Sally Says
   * The Monkey Garden