102-End

Socio-Economic View

1. Describe the effect of money, education, prestige, and power on barrio dreams. Explain why a rise in status, such as owning a car or living in a house on a hill, would end some of the misery boredom, and hopelessness on Mango Street.
2. Draw a cause and effect diagram illustrating the changes that take place in Esperanza as she copes with poverty.
3. Nearly all the characters in Cisnero’s book dream of escaping. What do they want to leave?
   1. Describe the ways in which different people try to escape, as well as the result of their efforts.
   2. Do you think Esperanza’s dreams of escaping are likely to be more successful? Why?
   3. How does being poor-as most of these characters are-affect one’s chances of escaping a dead-end neighborhood or fulfilling other dreams?

Optimism

1. Why does Esperanza long for a house on a hill?
   1. What needs in her life are not being met by the house on mango Street>
   2. Do her dreams of a better home giver her hope?
   3. Why would she feel more secure on a hill?
2. What is the importance of optimism? Discuss ways in which barrio dwellers compensate for poverty with gaiety, friendship, family, religion, education, art, music, dancing, stories, plants, animals, food, work, comfort, loyalty, television, and moral support.

Leaving and Making a Home

1. At the novel’s end, Esperanza declares that she is too strong for Mango Street to keep her forever.
   1. What is the nature of her strength?
   2. How does Cisneros establish this characteristic elsewhere in the book?
2. The three sisters tell Esperanza, “When you leave you must remember to come back for the others.”
   1. What do they mean by this?
   2. In what ways does Esperanza reconcile her longings to escape with her loyalty to her origins?
   3. How would you choose to remain faithful to a place you needed to leave?