Pages 88-102

Although Esperanza is clever and often very perceptive, she is still a child, and Cisneros sometimes shows her failing to see the significance of things that would be obvious to someone older.

On pages 24-25 Esperanza and her friends take a ride in a flashy car driven by Louie’s cousin, who is promptly arrested by the police. An adult would have been suspicious about the new card and would probably not wave so cheerfully when Louie was taken away.

What is the effect of making Esperanza a little bit of an “unreliable narrator?” Where else in the story does Cisneros use this technique?

Throughout the novel, Cisneros’s narrator often describes herself from two points of view: as she sees herself and as she believes others see her.

For example in My Name she says, “at school sthy say my name funny as if [. . .] it hurts the roof of your mouth,” (pg 11).

1. How does Esperanza see herself? How does she think other people perceive her?
2. Where else in the book does she convey this dual consciousness not only about herself, but about a situation?