

Into

Examine the front cover.

- Do any clues in the picture tell you what the story may be about?
- Who wrote the book? What do you know about this author?
- What other information does the cover give you?
- Why are the colors muted?
- Why are their eyes closed?
- Why is the woman in the middle draping a veil over the other women?

Go to the back cover.

Told in a series of vignettes stunning for their eloquence, *THE HOUSE ON MANGO STREET* is the story of Esperanza Cordero, a young girl growing up in the Hispanic quarter of Chicago. For Esperanza, Mango Street is a desolate landscape of concrete and run-down tenements, where she discovers the hard realities of life--the fetters of class and gender, the specter of racial enmity, the mysteries of sexuality, and more. Capturing her thoughts and emotions in poems and stories, Esperanza is able to rise above hopelessness, and create for herself "a house all my own quiet as snow, a space for myself to go," in the midst of her oppressive surroundings.

Brilliantly evocative, hauntingly lyrical, intensely compelling, *THE HOUSE ON MANGO STREET* signals the emergence of a major new literary talent.

- ① What do you think the book will be about? Read the titles of the vignettes in the table of contents. ② Why do you think the author decided to use these titles? ③ Are any of these titles familiar to you? ④ Can you tell from reading these titles what the vignettes are about? ⑤ Select the title of a vignette that piques your interest and write what you think the vignette will be about from what the title implies.

LUMPED
3 TOGETHER

Look inside the book.

Sometimes you can find more information about the book and its author inside the book. Here is a biography of Sandra Cisneros that appears after the final page of the story.

About the Author

Sandra Cisneros was born in Chicago in 1954. She has worked as a teacher to high school dropouts, a poet-in-the-schools, a college recruiter, and an arts administrator. Most recently, she has taught as a visiting writer at a number of universities around the country. The recipient of two NEA fellowships for poetry and fiction, Cisneros is the author of *Woman Hollering Creek* (Random House), a collection of stories, and *My Wicked Wicked Ways* (Third Woman), a volume of poetry.

The daughter of a Mexican father and a Mexican-American mother, and sister to six brothers, she is nobody's mother and nobody's wife. She currently lives in San Antonio, Texas.

Why do you think Sandra Cisneros says she is "Nobody's mother and Nobody's wife"?

Look At the Book's Dedication

A las Mujeres, To the Women

2. Why does an author dedicate a book?
3. What does this particular dedication suggest to you about the book?

After Reading Novel

Return to the predictions made before reading the book. Which ideas have proven correct?