



**SAINTS JOHN NEUMANN AND MARIA GORETTI  
CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL**  
1736 SOUTH TENTH STREET  
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Phone (215) 465-8437 Fax (215) 462-2410

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Name \_\_\_\_\_

Summer Reading Assignment

Senior Class

**The House on Mango Street**

By Sandra Cisneros

**The House on Mango Street** is a short novel by Mexican-American novelist, Sandra Cisneros, in which, through a series of short vignettes, she recreates a year in the life of Esperanza and her Hispanic neighborhood. She focuses particularly on the lives of the women as they encounter the many challenges of life, including love, sex, poverty and violence. After reading the novel, answer fully the following questions.

1. In chapter 3, *Boys and Girls*, Sandra Cisneros writes, "Boys and girls live in separate worlds. The boys in their universe and we in ours." That is they have different expectations and face different problems and challenges. Answer the following questions about that statement. **Your answer to parts a and b should be  $\frac{3}{4}$  of a page typed.**
  - a. Identify, in the novel, 5 examples of how boys and girls live in separate universes and explain their impact on girls' lives.
  - b. From your own experience of the world give 5 examples of how boys and girls live in separate universes and explain their impact on girls' lives.
2. Beginning in ch.4 *My Name*, there appear many women, like Esperanza's great grandmother, who sit looking out windows. Why do they do this and what does it reveal about the lives of these women. **Your answer to this question should be between  $\frac{1}{4}$  and  $\frac{1}{2}$  page typed.**
3. Ch. 11, *Marin*, is a chapter about a girl waiting for a guy to come along and "change her life." What do you think about her plans for the future and what advice would you give to her. **Your answer to this question should be between  $\frac{1}{4}$  and  $\frac{1}{2}$  page typed.**
4. Read the 3 vignettes about Sally (Sally p.81-83, What Sally Said p.92-93 and Linoleum Roses p.101-102) From Sally's story, what do we learn about the dangers, challenges



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and vulnerabilities of being female. **Your answer to this question should be between  $\frac{1}{4}$  and  $\frac{1}{2}$  page typed.**

5. Select any 3 other vignettes and write a brief analysis of them. **Your answer to this question should be between  $\frac{1}{4}$  and  $\frac{1}{2}$  page typed.**
  - **Summer assignment is due the first week of school**
  - **Bring a copy of the book with you to class on the first day of school**