

7th Grade Gifted & Talented
The House on Mango Street

DIRECTIONS:

Read the open-ended questions provided below. These questions are open-ended for a reason. There is no right or wrong answer. Answering these questions will prepare you for an in-class discussion held at the beginning of the year. The discussion is designed for you to ask each other questions, give opinions and examples, pose other questions, and thoroughly analyze the text as well as connect it to the real world.

Note:

- On the second day of school (Thursday, August 16, 2018), your answers to all of the questions will be collected from you. This assignment will be your first **major grade** of the semester.
- I would prefer for your answers to be typed in Arial, 12-point font. (However, if you do not have access to a computer or this poses a problem for you, you may write your answers by hand, neatly and clearly.)
- Write in complete sentences and on a separate Word document or paper. Each question may ask for multiple answers. Make sure you answer all of the questions. You are not required to restate the questions; however, make sure to number your answers to correspond with the questions.
- You must do this assignment on your own. Your answers should not sound like any other student's answers!

Thank you, and I look forward to having you in my class. I hope you have a wonderful summer!

Ms. Goetzman
7th Grade G/T Language Arts

1. **THEME (Identity):** In *The House on Mango Street*, the narrator and main character, Esperanza, develops her identity in several different ways. What is your definition of identity? How do you know when your identity is growing or changing? In what ways does Esperanza's identity grow and change? Is it important to be aware of your identity? The identity of others? Why? Explain your answers using at least 2 quotes from the text.

2. **IDEAS OF HOME:** Consider the following passages:

"I like Alicia because once she gave me a little leather purse with the word GUADALAJARA stitched on it, which is home for Alicia, and one day she will go back there. But today she is listening to my sadness because I don't have a house" (106).

"What about a house, I say, because that's what I came for. Ah yes, a home in the heart. I see a home in the heart" (64).

What is the difference between a house and a home? Do you consider where you currently live to be your home? Is home always a physical place? By the end of the novel, what does Esperanza conclude about Mango Street? Do you believe Esperanza will achieve her idea of home? Why or why not?

3. **FAMILY and COMMUNITY:** Esperanza is a member of at least three different communities and families in *The House on Mango Street* – Mango Street, her birth family/relatives, and her friends. What does it mean to be part of a community? What communities do you belong to? What does it mean to be part of a family? Who do you consider to be your family and why? Give an example from the novel of when Esperanza evaluates or judges the role or responsibility of family.

4. **GENDER ROLES:** Why do the women on Mango Street seem to have so little power? Why do the men have so much power? What will it take to change this power dynamic? Do you think gender roles are the same or different in today's society? Explain your answers.

5. **BILDUNGSROMAN:** What is a bildungsroman? How does Esperanza change throughout the novel? What events led to these changes? What challenges did she face?

6. YOUR QUESTIONS:

Create two questions of your own to discuss with your classmates. Your questions should be thought-provoking and require evidence from the text.

Question 1:

Question 2: