***House on Mango Street***

**Study Guide Questions 4 Novellas 17-21**

***The Family of Little Feet* pages 39-42**

1. What do the girls get from the family with little feet? How do the girls react to the gifts?

The girls get 3 pairs of used high heeled shoes; one yellow, one red, and one pale blue pair. The girls are so excited to get the shoes that they trade them around and feel like Cinderella when wearing them.

1. What discovery do the girls make because of the gifts? Why do you think they just made the discovery now?

The girls discover that they have legs just like women do when they put on the shoes. Wearing their tennis shoes and socks disguised their legs making them look like little girls legs.

1. How does the behavior of the boys and men in the neighborhood change?

The men and the boys start looking at the girls differently as they walk around. Mr. Benny tells the girls the shoes are dangerous and threatens to call the cops, and a little boy on a bike yells something flirty to them. A druken homeless man in front of the tavern compliments them and offers a dollar in exchange for a kiss.

***A Rice Sandwich* pages 43-45**

1. Why does Esperanza want to eat in the canteen?

Esperanza wants to eat in the canteen because she thinks the kids are special for eating there. She also feels a bit lonely at lunch and too lazy to walk home.

1. Which reasons does Esperanza use to convince her mother to write a note for her?

Esperanza convinces her mother to write a note by pointing out that her siblings do not come home for lunch. She offers to make her own sandwiches and points out that eating at the canteen would mean fewer dishes for her mother to wash. She mentions how sickly she is, so walking home for lunch is too much for her. Finally, she suggests that if her mother saw her less, she would miss her and love her more.

1. What was Esperanza’s experience in the canteen?

Esperanza does not think the canteen is very special, the boys and girls are unfriendly to her and she cries while she eats her cold, greasy sandwich.

***Chanclas* pages 46-47**

1. What did Esperanza’s mother forget? How does she react to this mistake?

Esperanza’s mother forgets to bring new dress shoes. Esperanza is very embarrassed that she has to wear her old shoes, and it makes her feel ugly.

1. How do Esperanza’s feelings change during her dance with her uncle?

At first, Esperanza did not want to dance with her uncle because she was aware of her ugly shoes, so he had to pull her onto the dance floor. However, he compliments her beauty, and then others compliment her dancing, and finally she is comfortable enough to bow at the end of the dance.

1. Who else wants to dance with Esperanza? Why do you think she mentions him watching her dance?

Esperanza’s cousin by marriage is interested in dancing with her, but she was too embarrassed at the beginning, and she turns him down. After dancing with Uncle Nacho, Esperanza is more confident of her beauty and appeal, and then she is flattered to be watched by a boy who is not related to her.

***Hips* pages 49-52**

1. What are the girls doing in this vignette while they talk about hips?

The girls are chanting and jumping rope double dutch while they talk about hips.

1. Name 3 things the girls say hips are needed for.

1. holding a baby while cooking

2. dancing

3. having babies

4. contrasting the bone structure between men & women

1. Contrast Nenny’s comments with the other girl’s comments. Take a guess at Nenny’s age, and explain your guess.

Nenny’s comments are more innocent. Nenny chooses more innocent chants for her turn jumping rope.

***The First Job* pages 53-55**

1. Why does Esperanza need to get a job?

Esperanza needs to get a job to help her parents pay for her tuition to Catholic high school.

1. What does Esperanza do at her job?

Esperanza works at a photo finishing store, matching up the negative prints, and then putting the matches in an envelope together.

1. List 3 moments during her first day that are awkward or uncomfortable for Esperanza.

1. At lunch she eats alone in one of the bathroom stalls

2. On a break, she hides in a coat room to avoid others

3. An older man asks her for a kiss for his birthday. She goes to give him a kiss on the cheek and he turns her face to kiss him on the lips.