***The House on Mango Street***

***Comprehension Questions 5-10***

***Cathy Queen of Cats*** pages 12-13

1. What is distinctive about Cathy?

Cathy is a big snob. Cathy’s family does not seem to be struggling any less than any other family in the neighborhood. She befriends Esperanza when she moves to Mango Street, but tells her it will only be for a week because her family is moving on Tuesday.

1. What does the neighborhood getting bad mean?

According to Cathy’s family, the neighborhood is getting bad and deteriorating with all of the immigrant families moving in.

1. Do you think Cathy’s father will fly to France one day? Give reasons for your opinion.

No their family is not related to the Queen. This is a made up story told to Cathy by her family. Cathy and Esperanza are similar in how they created a world full of dreams and imagination to survive. Cathy tries to demonstrate her superiority to Esperanza by lying about being the queen of France.

***Our Good Day*** pages 14-16

1. What does Esperanza get $5 for?

Esperanza buys a share of a secondhand bike.

1. How does Cathy react to the purchase? How do you think she feels about Esperanza’s new friendship with Rachel and Lucy?

Cathy thinks that Rachel and Lucy are dirty because of how they smell and how they dress, and she probably thinks that Esperanza has made a bad decision. She reacts by leaving without saying goodbye.

1. What do the girls do with their new purchase on the first day? What do they plan to do with it in the future?

On the first day. The girls all ride the bike together around the block and laugh. They plan to share it by rotating who has it each day.

1. Why do Rachel and Lucy seem better friends to Esperanza than Cathy does?

Rachel and Lucy accept Esperanza for who she is and don’t make her choose between two things she wants, a friend and a bicycle. They also do not put limits on their friendship and they don’t insult her and suggest that she’s making the neighborhood worse.

***Laughter*** pages 17-18

1. How are Rachel and Lucy alike? How are Esperanza and Nelly alike?

Rachel and Lucy have the same lips and the same light laughter. Nenny and Esperanza don’t look alike, but have a big laugh, and they sometimes think the same way.

1. What do the houses remind Esperanza of? Who agrees with her?

The house remind Esperanza of houses in Mexico and Nenny agrees.

1. What does the incident with the house suggest about Esperanza and Nenny?

The incident with the house suggests that Esperanza and Nenny see the world the same. It also suggests that they have the same shared memories from traveling.

***Girls Furniture Bought and Sold*** pages 19-20

1. How does the author describe Gil’s junk shop?

Gil’s junk shop is also a treasure shop, “one man’s shack is another man’s castle.” Esperanza & Nenny are poor, so they cannot afford to buy much there.

1. Describe the item that fascinates Esperanza?

The item that fascinates Esperanza is the music box.

1. Why does Esperanza pretend she doesn’t want it?

Esperanza pretends she doesn’t want the music box because she realizes it is expensive and they can’t afford it.

1. How does Nenny react to the item? What is Esperanza’s opinion of Nenny’s behavior?

Nenny likes the music box too. She asks how much it is and reaches into her pockets for quarters. Esperanza’s opinion of Nenny’s behavior is that she is being stupid and does not know the value of money.

***Meme Ortiz*** pages 21-22

1. Who is Meme Ortiz? How old is she? How do you know?

Meme’s real name is Juan. His dog also has two names; one in English and one in Spanish. We don’t learn his age, but can assume he is young because he is swinging off trees with Esperanza in Tarzan Jumping Contest and broke both his arms.

1. Was Meme’s house built well? Cite details from the vignette to support your conclusion.

Meme’s house was not built well because the floors inside slant, and the stairs are out front are crooked. The house also lacks closets.

1. Why do you think Esperanza thinks the large tree in his background is so memorable?

Esperanza remembers the tree in the backyard because it is so tall, even taller than her house down the block. She might also remember it because the kids have a Tarzan Jumping Contest using the tree, even though Meme broke both his arms then.

***Louie, His Cousin, & His Other Cousin*** pages 23-25

1. Who are Louie’s cousins? Describe them.

One of Louie’s cousins is a girl from Puerto Rico, who babysits Louie’s little sisters and sells Avon makeup. Esperanza thinks her name is Marin. Louie’s other cousin is not described much, but he is caught by the police and arrested because he stole a car.

1. How do you know that the car the other cousin is driving is expensive and luxurious?

Cadillacs are usually expensive and it has all the trimmings; a radio, automatic windows, and white walls. The white leather seats and carpets are also upgrades in most cars.

1. How did Louie’s other cousin get the car? Why did you make that inference?

Louie’s other cousin probably stole the car because the police begin chasing him when they see the car. Also when the kids ask him where he got the car, he doesn’t answer.