***The House on Mango Street***

***Study Guide Questions 5 Novellas 22-31***

***Papa Who Wakes up Tired in the Dark* pages 56-57**

1. What news does Esperanza’s father share with her?

Papa tells Esperanza that his father has died.

1. Contrast Papa’s reaction with Esperanza’s reaction to the news.

Papa cries about his father dying, which is surprising to Esperanza because she has never seen her father cry. Esperanza feels responsible because she’ll have to keep her siblings under control during the day, she feels bad because she is reminded of her father’s death in the future.

1. What are Esperanza’s responsibilities for the day? What will her father have to do?

Esperanza will be responsible for telling her siblings of their grandfather’s death and keeping them quiet during the day. Her father will travel to Mexico and gather with his siblings for a photo at the gravesite.

***Born Bad* pages 58-61**

1. Who is Aunt Lupe? What has her life been like?

Aunt Lupe is Esperanza’s mothers relative. She was dark and beautiful in her youth. She was married and had at least one child. She was a swimmer, but now has a terrible disease that cripples her and causes her to go blind. Aunt Lupe enjoys Esperanza’s visits, being read to, and listens to her poetry.

1. According to Esperanza, who is “born bad”? Why?

Esperanza feels that she was born bad because she played the mimicking game with Aunt Lupe. She thinks she may have caused her death.

1. What advice does Aunt Lupe give Esperanza? What do you think it means?

Aunt Lupe encourages Esperanza to continue writing. She tells her it will keep her free. Esperanza is able to think for herself, writing will give her options for her life, knowing and imagining can keep her happy.

***Elenita, Cards, Palm, Water* pages 62-64**

1. What is Esperanza hoping to do when she visits Elenita?

Esperanza is hoping to have Elenita consult some tools and determine if Esperanza will ever have the house she dreams of.

1. Why does Esperanza long to watch Bugs Bunny cartoons instead?

Esperanza may want to watch cartoons because she may not be comfortable in Elenita’s eclectic apartment. She may also want to watch cartoons because she is not as grown up and ready for her future as she thought she was. Maybe she just wants to watch the cartoons with Elenita’s children.

1. What does Elenita suggest for Esperanza’s future? Is Esperanza satisfied? Why?

Elenita tells Esperanza that she will find a “home in the heart,” but Esperanza is not satisfied. She wants something more specific and she is disappointed.

***Geraldo No Last Name* pages 65-66**

1. Where do Marin and Geraldo meet? Who is he to Marin?

Marin knows Geraldo form a dance that night. She danced with him, and she was the last person who saw him before he was hit by a car.

1. Why does no one seem to know Geraldo’s last name?

No one knows Geraldo’s last name because he is not well known in the area. He works at a restaurant, but Marin does not know which one, or where he lives. He does not have any identification in his pockets, maybe because he is living and working in the US illegally.

1. Which statements form the vignette suggest that Geraldo could have survived the accident?

When the police question Marin, their comments make it seem like his life does not matter because he is “just another wetback.” (meaning he is living in the US illegally) This probably why, at the hospital, the surgeon is not called to operate on Geraldo’s injuries.

***Edna’s Ruthie* pages 67-69**

1. Who are Edna and Ruthie?

Edna is the owner and landlady for the three story apartment building next door to Esperanza’s house. Ruthie is her adult daughter, who lives with her, although she has a husband and a home elsewhere.

2. What are two things about Ruthie that Esperanza likes?

Esperanza likes that Edna likes to play and that she laughs to herself, even when no one else is around. She and Esperanza both enjoy eating candy, and Ruthie can whistle beautifully, not to mention sing and dance. Edna also takes joy in the little things around her, like the clouds and the moon overhead, and library books.

***The Earl of Tennessee* pages 70-71**

1. Who is Earl? What does he do for a living?

Earl is a single man who lives in the basement of Edna’s apartment. He works nights as a jukebox repairman, a skilled he learned when he lived in the South.

1. How does Earl interact with the kids in the neighborhood?

Earl gets upset and yells at the kids when they are loud and he is trying to sleep during the day. Earl can be kind when he gives the kids the 45 records that he does not want.

1. What is the gossip about Earl? What do Esperanza and the other neighborhood kids not realize about Earl and his wife?

The gossip about Earl is that he is married, but his wife lives somewhere else. Many of the neighbors say they have seen his wife, but their description does not match, suggesting that he brings many different women to his apartment. Esperanza is still too naïve to realize that Earl does not have a long term relationship.

***Sire* pages 72-73**

1. Why is Esperanza afraid of Sire?

Esperanza is afraid of Sire because Sire stares at her often, and it makes her self- conscious. She is excited about the attention, but she does not want him to know.

1. Who is Lois? How does Esperanza feel about her?

Lois is Sire’s girlfriend. Esperanza feels jealous that Lois and Sire can do things together at night that Esperanza cannot.

1. How is Esperanza changing in this vignette? Cite two details to support your answer.
2. Esperanza seems to be growing up and becoming more sexual. She said she feels like “everything is waiting to explode” inside her.
3. She also asks Sire questions about how he holds Lois and how he kisses her.