***The House on Mango Street***

**Study Guide Questions Novellas 11-16**

***Marin* pages 26-27**

1. Who is Marin?

Marin is Louie’s cousin form Puerto Rico. She lives with them and always babysitting the little sisters. Marin is older than Esperanza or we think she is because she dresses to go out in dark nylons and heavy makeup.

1. Why is she unable to leave her house?

Marin is stuck inside because she is always babysitting Louie’s little sisters. She is playing the traditional female role, but she feels trapped by it. She stands near the door of her “cage”, singing songs of love.

1. How does she plan to change her situation?

Marin plans to either move back to Puerto Rico with the money she has saved up to be with her boyfriend and live a nice life or she is going to wait for her prince charming to come and take her away to something better.

1. Why do Esperanza and her friends admire her?

Esperanza and her friends admire Marin because she is older, more mature, and boys are interested in her.

1. Where is Marin going in a year? Why?

Marin hopes to stay in Chicago next year so she can get a job downtown. She hopes to meet a rich man on the subway who will marry her and take her to live outside the barrio.

***Those Who Don’t* page 28**

1. How do outsiders see Esperanza’s neighborhood?

Esperanza says that people “who don’t know any better” think her neighborhood is dangerous and that if they find themselves in it at night, they fear they’ll get stabbed.

1. How does Esperanza feel when she visits other neighborhoods?

Esperanza says if it’s a neighborhood of another color her knees go shakity-shake and the car windows get rolled up tight and her eyes look straight.

***There Was an Old Woman She Had So Many Children She Didn’t Know What to Do* pages 29-30**

1. Who is Rosa Vargas? Describe her life.

Rosa Vargas is a single mother who lives in Esperanza’s neighborhood. She has so many children that she is too tired to really deal with their bad behavior, and her husband left her a while ago without leaving her any money or a reason for leaving.

1. What does Esperanza think the Vargas children are missing, aside from their father?

Esperanza thinks the Vargas children do not have respect for living things or self-respect.

1. How do other people in the neighborhood react to the Vargas children?

At first, other people in the neighborhood used to tell the children how to behave. When the kids clearly didn’t listen, the neighbors stopped watching or protecting the kids.

***Alicia Who Sees Mice* pages 31-32**

1. What are Alicia’s responsibilities at home? Why?

Alicia has to wake up early to make tortillas and pack lunches because her mother died.

1. What is Alicia afraid of?

Alicia is afraid of the mice that scurry away from her when she wakes up early each morning. She is also afraid of her father.

1. How does Alicia’s father react when she mentions mice? How does he feel about women in general?

Alicia’s father does not care about Alicia’s fears, so he says she should close her eyes or that the mice are just imagined. He believes women should hold traditional roles, like cooking for the family.

***Darius and the Clouds* pages 33-34**

1. “You can never have too much sky.” What does that statement mean? Is it true?

Esperanza thinks there is a shortage of sky, butterflies, and flowers.

1. How is Darius in contrast to the clouds he describes?

Darius sees God in a fat, fluffy cloud that looks like popcorn.

***And Some More* pages 35-38**

1. What starts the disagreement between the girls?

The argument starts when Rachel or Lucy says that one of the clouds looks like Esperanza’s fat face.

1. Is the name-calling serious, meant to hurt each other’s feelings, or is it joking? Explain your opinion.

I think they are serious at first, since breaking up the friendship is threatened, but then it turns into silliness because the girls talk about chicken lips, cockroach jelly, and foot fleas.

1. How is Nenny’s behavior different from the rest of the girls? Why do you think that is the case?

Nenny’s behavior is different because she does not get involved in the name calling and threats. Instead, she plays her own game, listing all the names she can think of to label the clouds she sees in the sky.