The House on Mango Street

C-E-C- Essay

Choose **one** of the prompts below for your C-E-C analytical essay. When writing your C-E-C style 5-paragraph essay, make sure you have a solid thesis statement, good topic sentences/claims, and at least one quotation for each of your body paragraphs. Remember, you should use as many quotes as you need to answer the question.

DO NOT merely lapse into story summary, but rather use examples from the text to support your thesis and claims through thoughtful analysis and commentary.

Length: 21/2 – 3 pages (honors: 3 full pages+); MLA format; Times New Roman 12pt type, etc. Please include a Works Cited.

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1. Esperanza has a variety of female role models in her life. Many are trapped in abusive relationships, waiting for others to change their lives, while others are actively trying to change things on their own. Discuss how the author uses these women and Esperanza’s reaction to them to show not only the hardships they face, but also explores their power to overcome their situations. *Check pages: 10-11, 26-27, 29, 31-32, 58-61, 67-69, 74-75, 79-80, 81-83, 84- 85, 88-89, 90-91, 92-93, 101-102, 103-105, 106-107, 109-110*
2. Both Alicia and Esperanza view education and writing as a way to a better life. Discuss how Cisneros uses these and other characters in the novel to suggest that education offers a kind of freedom for them. *Check pages: 31-32, 35, 60-61, 74-75, 90-91, 104-105, 106-107, 109-110*

Honors Essay Prompts:

1. Esperanza’s negative view of herself slowly changes as she begins to focus on her larger community and her place within it. Through this, Cisneros shows that knowing and accepting where we have come from is an important part of growing up and determining who we are.

Check pages: 3-5, 10-11, 29-30, 33-34, 46-48, 55-57, 58-61, 62-64, 86-87, 88-89, 103-105, 106-107, 108, 109-110

1. The circle is an important symbol in Mango Street, representing ways that many characters are trapped in a cycle of violence and poverty as well as the ways that community can help break that cycle.

Check pages: 26-27, 29-30, 31-32, 58-61, 65-66, 67-69, 76-78, 79-80, 81-83, 84-85, 88-89, 90-91, 92-93, 101-102, 106-107, 109-110

*Helpful Hints:*

* *write in literary present tense*
* *use MLA format for quotes*
* *create an effective thesis statement*
* *make sure your claims support your thesis statement – and you include commentary/analysis*
* *do not use contractions*
* *write in the 3rd person*