

English 9H Summer Reading and Journal Assignment

Mrs. Werner

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Welcome to your 9th grade English class!

You must read *The House on Mango Street* by Sandra Cisneros. Read it and keep a reader's response journal as you read.

This book can be found at any book store, on Amazon, or in PDF form at the following link:

<http://nlcphs.net/SummerReadings/Freshmen/HouseOnMango.pdf>

A reader's response journal is a bit like a diary. However, you will not be writing about that special someone you like, the type of day you had, that nasty teacher who will not stop assigning tons of summer reading work, and all the other popular topics that are typically discussed in diaries. Instead, you will be exploring your feelings about and reactions **to the novel** that you have chosen to read. Keeping a response journal will give you an opportunity to express your own opinions about what is happening in the novel you are reading. Passages that are upset you, make you happy, or that you simply do not understand, can be discussed in your journal entries. You will have a chance to ask questions that you think are important.

1. You will be expected to **make 8 journal entries** for the novel. Prior to reading, choose the spots you will stop to make a journal entry. Spread them throughout the book.

2. In your journal entries, you can discuss anything that interests you about the material you are reading (a character you despise, a scene that you found particularly moving, a setting that was described in extraordinary detail, etc.).

3. There is no set limit on how long your entries have to be; however, a 5-7 sentence paragraph should be what you're minimally shooting for. Keep in mind: journals will assist you in your book discussions; you must prove through these discussions that you read the book. Take the time to think carefully about what you are writing, and be sure to be complete in your responses. This means that you will have to explain in detail your thoughts, feelings, and opinions.

4. The following are some possible statement starters for you to choose from when you are making your entries:

• My favorite character/s... • The part I liked best... • I would like _____ as a friend because... • If I were the author, I would... • What impressed me in this chapter was... • I noticed... • It upset me when... • I wonder about... • I don't really understand... • I now understand... • If I were _____, I would... • I predict that... • I was shocked when/by... • I question... • I think... • I like... • I wish... • This part reminds me of... • It seems to me... • I question... • I liked the idea that... • I felt... • I know someone like... • When this happens to me, I feel... • One time I... • It was or was not fair when... • The author could have... • I was surprised... • When I finished reading, I thought... • One thing that confused me was...

****ONE OF YOUR ENTRIES MAY BE A DRAWING, COLLAGE, OR OTHER CREATIVE OFFERING INSTEAD OF WRITING IN PARAGRAPH FORM!****

5. You can also make up some of your own sentence starters. Besides writing entries telling what you are thinking about, you may write response journal entries which are letter format (to the author, to me, or to characters in the book, etc.). You may also respond to specific quotes in the novel in paragraph form. That would count as a journal entry. Remember, your journal is an opportunity for you to explore what you think is important.

6. Your journal entries must be neat, well thought out, and legible. Take the time to read over what you have written after each entry to ensure that your ideas are in order.

7. **Do not summarize the vignettes.** I am looking for **your reactions** to what you read!

**Journals may be handwritten or typed; journals may be submitted electronically to Mrs. Werner's email address. Be sure to put your name on your journal entries!

JOURNALS WILL BE COLLECTED ON OUR FIRST DAY BACK. LATE JOURNALS WILL BE ACCEPTED, BUT WILL TAKE A POINT REDUCTION FOR EACH DAY LATE. NO JOURNALS WILL BE ACCEPTED AFTER MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 11.

You'll have an in-class writing assignment and your first speaking assignment regarding your chosen book.

Happy reading! Have a safe and wonderful summer! Contact me with any questions or concerns!

-Mrs. Werner

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