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English 9 MAP

Herzman P3

November 13, 2023

A Home, Not A House

The story *House on Mango Street* by Sandra Cisneros is a story about the life of Esperanza, a young Hispanic-American girl living in a poor and crowded town of Chicago, conveys the message that a home is more than just a house.

Throughout the story, Esperanza repeatedly hints at how much she despises the house on Mango Street. “I knew then I had to have a house. A real house. One I could point to. But this isn’t it. The house on Mango Street isn’t it” (5). The repetition of ‘house’ throughout this quote displays Esperanza’s longing for a proper house, as she says the word over and over again, hoping her house will change. When she addresses the house as not ‘it,’ she means the house is not what Esperanza dreams of and considers to be her home. The author uses personification to give a house figurative standards, even though a house is simply an object. Furthermore, she continues to address her house as ‘The house on Mango Street,’ proving that she doesn’t consider her house to be a part of her identity, enough to call it her home.

Although Esperanza determines that “the house on Mango Street is ours” and realizes that “we don’t have to pay rent to anybody, or share the yard with the people downstairs, or be careful not to make too much noise, and there isn’t a landlord banging on the ceiling with a broom” (3), she doesn’t consider it to be her home. The author uses a run-on sentence to add to the tone of this vignette. This tells the reader that Esperanza has never had a true house before, as she is marveling at the house by rambling on about its properties. Additionally, the properties of

a house that she mentioned, are simply physical features many houses possess. This proves that although she has physical ownership of the house on Mango Street, she doesn't belong to it.

At the end of the story, Esperanza realizes that although the house on Mango Street is not her ideal house, through the memories she made, feels like she belongs to the house on Mango Street. And that's why the house on Mango Street is her home.