***House on Mango* Street Study Questions-- Pages 76-93**

**DIRECTIONS: Answer each of the following questions as completely as possible on a separate piece of paper. Use specific details from the story to support your answers.**

“No Speak English”

1. What is the sorrow of the woman across the street? Why does she get upset when the baby boy begins to sing the Pepsi commercial?

“Rafaela Who drinks Coconut & Papaya Juice on Tuesdays”

1. Why does Rafaela get locked indoors? What does this tell you about the role of women in this culture?
2. What are some of the pitfalls and dangers that Esperanza must avoid? Are these pitfalls very different from the ones you must avoid?

“Minerva Writes Poems”

1. Why does Minerva write poems? How is she like Esperanza? How is she different?
2. A cautionary tale is pretty much as it sounds. It is a story that warns or cautions the reader about the danger she might face. How is “Minerva Writes Poems” a cautionary tale?

“Bums in the Attic”

1. Why does Esperanza say that she will be happy to have the bums living in her attic?

“Beautiful and Cruel”

1. Here is Esperanza at her most confident. She is not like those “who lay their necks on the threshold for the ball and chain” (88). In this poetic image, what does the word “threshold” signify? What is the “ball and chain”? What are the connotations of these two terms?
2. Why does Esperanza emphasize that she will act “like a man”? What does this signify in this story?

“A Smart Cookie”

1. Here we have another cautionary tale and his one is told to Esperanza by her mother. Esperanza’s mother warns her about not participating in life because of shame. Explain the significance of the last sentence: “I was a smart cookie then” (91).

“What Sally Said”

1. Why does Sally leave home? Why does her father hit her? Why does she go back home?