

## **THE HOUSE ON MANGO STREET SHORT ANSWER STUDY QUESTIONS**

### **The House on Mango Street - Laughter**

1. Name the members of the narrator's family.

*Mama, Papa, Carlos, Kiki, and Nenny.*

2. How was the house on Mango Street different than the other houses the family had lived in?

*It belongs to only them, no sharing or paying rent.*

3. Describe the house on Mango Street.

*Small, red with tight steps in front, tiny windows, crumbling bricks and it's without a front yard.*

4. Why does the narrator say Nenny is not her friend?

*Because she is too young.*

5. What does the narrator want to have someday? (Boys & Girls)

*She wants a best-friend.*

6. What is the narrator's name? What does it mean in English and in Spanish? After whom is she named? (My Name)

*Esperanza, in English meaning hope but sadness and waiting in Spanish.*

7. What did Esperanza buy? How did she go about buying it? (Our Good Day)

*She bought a bike with two other girls and took some money from her sister to get it.*

### **Gil's Furniture Bought & Sold - There Was an Old Woman**

1. What did the girls discover in the furniture store that made Esperanza feel stupid? (Gil's)

*A music box.*

2. What is special about the tree in Meme's yard? (Meme Ortiz)

*It's the tree they chose for their first annual Tarzan jumping contest.*

3. What happened when Louie's other cousin visited? (Louie, His Cousin & His Other Cousin)

*He got arrested by the police for what appeared to be grand theft auto.*

4. Where is Marin going in a year? Why? (Marin)

*She is going to get a job downtown because that's where the best ones are.*

5. What matters, according to Marin? (Marin)

*According to Marin what matters is that boys see them and they see boys.*

6. What scares the people who come into Esperanza's neighborhood? What does Esperanza think of them? (Those Who Don't)

*They fear that the people in her neighborhood are dangerous, Esperanza believes they're stupid for this belief.*

7. What does Esperanza say the Vargas kids don't have? (There Was an Old Woman)

*She says they don't have respect for themselves or anyone else.*

### **Alicia Who Sees Mice - A Rice Sandwich**

1. What does Esperanza say about Alicia? (Alicia Who Sees Mice)

*She says Alicia is a smart young lady enrolled in university who sees mice at home.*

2. What wise thing did Darius say? (Darius & the Clouds)

*He said that a fat cloud in the sky was God.*

3. What happened while the girls were looking at the clouds? (And Some More)

*They ended up calling each-other names and fighting (verbally of course).*

4. Where did the girls get the shoes? What did they do with them? (The Family of Little Feet)

*They got them from their mother and afterwards walked around the neighborhood.*

5. What happened when Esperanza took the note asking if she could stay for lunch? (A Rice Sandwich)

A nun stopped her and made her pay a visit to Sister Superior who in the end allowed her to stay for that one day.

### **Chanclas - Born Bad**

1. Why doesn't Esperanza want to dance? (Chanclas)

Because she is wearing her regular shoes.

2. How does Esperanza describe her feet? (Chanclas)

She describes them as ugly and continuously growing.

3. To what does Esperanza compare her hips? (Hips)

She compares her hips to roses.

4. What information about hips does Esperanza have? (Hips)

She explains that they are for when you get pregnant so you have room for the baby.

5. Why does Esperanza want to work? (The First Job)

To get into Catholic high school.

6. What happened to her at her job? (The First Job)

She learned how simple her job was and at the end of the day made friends with an older man who stole a kiss from her by telling her it was his birthday.

7. What news had Papa received? What does Esperanza do? (Papa . . . )

He got news his father, Esperanza's grandpa, had passed away.

8. What did the girls do to Aunt Lupe? Why did they do it? What happened to Aunt Lupe that day? What did Esperanza's mother say about it? (Born Bad)

They imitated Aunt Lupe playing a game they made only to find she died that same day.

### **Elenita, Cards, Palm, Water - No Speak English**

1. How does Esperanza describe Elenita? (Elenita, Cards ...)

She describes her as a witch woman.

2. Esperanza asked about a house. What was Elenita's response? (Elenita, Cards ...)

She responded saying "I see a home in the heart".

3. Who was Geraldo? What happened to him? How did Marin feel about it?

Geraldo was a guy Marin meant while out dancing, who managed to get killed in a hit-and-run but because Marin barely knew him she didn't really feel any type of way about what happened.

4. What is different about Ruthie? (Edna's Ruthie)

She is the only adult Esperanza knew who liked to play.

5. What does Esperanza think about Ruthie? (Edna's Ruthie)

She thinks she is a great friend to have.

6. What do all of the children in the neighborhood disagree on regarding Earl? About what do they agree? (The Earl of Tennessee)

All the children disagree on the appearance of Earl's wife but agree that whenever she comes, he grabs her by the arm and rushes her inside, she never stays long though.

7. Who are Sire and Lois? What did Esperanza notice about Sire? (Sire)

Sire and Lois are a couple. She noticed she wanted someone like him to treat her like the way he treats Lois.

8. What does Esperanza say about the trees? (Four Skinny Trees)

She says they are the only ones who understand her and vice versa .

9. What broke Mamacita's heart? (No Speak English)

Mamacita's heart was broken by the baby boy singing the pepsi commercial in english.

**Rafaela Who Drinks Coconut . . . - What Sally Said**

1. Why does Rafaela's husband lock her in the apartment? (Rafaela Who Drinks Coconut ...)

Because he fears she'll run away since she is extremely beautiful.

2. What does Rafaela like to drink? (Rafaela ...)

Coconut and papaya juice,

3. According to Esperanza, what does Sally want? (Sally)

She believes Sally wants to leave Mango Street and go somewhere far far away.

4. Describe Minerva's life. (Minerva Write Poems)

Minerva's life has been an unlucky series of events.

5. Why doesn't Esperanza go out with her family on Sundays anymore? (Bums in the Attic)

Because she is tired of looking at something she can't obtain.

6. What does Esperanza say she will do when she is older? (Bums in the Attic)

She states that she'll have a house of her own and will allow the homeless to stay in the attic.

7. What does Esperanza decide about growing up? (Beautiful & Cruel)

She decided to grow up untamed and have all her power to herself.

8. What does Esperanza's mother say about herself? What does she tell Esperanza? (Smart Cookie)

She says that she could've been somebody and explains to Esperanza that shame is bad because its power to keep you down.

9. What happened to Sally? (What Sally Said)

Sally got beat by her father in a way that left marks and bruises.

**The Monkey Garden - Mango Says Goodbye Sometimes**

1. How did Esperanza feel when Sally went into the garden with the boys? What did she do? (The Monkey Garden)

Esperanza felt stupid and ashamed when they went into the garden.

2. Why does Esperanza think Sally got married? (Linoleum Roses)

Because Sally met a marshmallow salesman at a school bazaar.

3. What does Sally do all day? Why? (Linoleum Roses)

She stays inside because she is afraid to leave without her husband's permission.

4. What did the three sisters tell Esperanza? (The Three Sisters)

They told her she is special and will go far, also that when she leaves she must always come back for the others.

5. How does Esperanza feel about Mango Street? (Alicia & I)

She as though it's not her home and she is ashamed of it.

6. How does Esperanza describe the house she wants? (A House of My Own)

She describes a house that is all hers, nice, quiet, and clean as paper before the poem.

7. What does Esperanza say she likes to do? (Mango Says Goodbye)

Esperanza says she likes to tell stories in her mind, make some about herself even.