



Curriculum Units by Fellows of the National Initiative
2026 Volume II: Latinx Histories, Cultures, and Communities

The Evolution of the Meaning of Home in The House on Mango Street

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by Nancy Bonill

Rooted in the historical context of Chicana feminist activism and Mexican American labor migration to Chicago, the curriculum provides a mirror for minority students. It guides them to examine their own ancestral roots and layered identities. This unit explores how the concept of "home" evolves throughout Sandra Cisneros's book, *The House on Mango Street*, examining protagonist Esperanza's transformative journey from shame and rejection of her community to acceptance and integration. Students will trace this evolution while connecting it to their own lived experiences of belonging, identity, and displacement. *The House on Mango Street* validates students' emerging understanding that home is multifaceted and deeply personal. In New Haven's culturally diverse student body, many students navigate complex relationships with home shaped by migration, cultural hybridity, and socioeconomic circumstances. For students who are immigrants, transplants, or first-generation Americans, home is not simply a physical space but an emotional intersection of safety, cultural heritage, family expectations, and personal aspirations. They will articulate connections recognizing that their personal narratives matter and their futures are not predetermined.

(Developed for ELA, grades 7-8; recommended for ELA and Social Studies, grades 7-9)

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