

THE HOUSE ON MANGO STREET PROJECT

Objective: Demonstrate your knowledge of and analytical thinking skills about *The House on Mango Street*, its author, characters, plot, theme, figurative language, and other important literary elements.

The project should reflect your critical thinking and analysis, as well as synthesize multiple literary elements, author purpose, and your own creativity. Though each project will incorporate artistic elements, writing and literary analysis will be most important

Task 1 – choose one of the following:

Choice #1: Mango Street Quilt

Your “quilt” should be made up of individual squares dedicated to important vignettes, characters, events, symbols, or images in the novel. Each square should contain a visual representation and *a relevant quotation from the text*. On the back of each, you should explain your reasoning for selecting the event or character you portrayed. Why is it significant? The size of the quilt should be at least 2 x 2 (4 squares)

Example: One square contains a picture of a large number nine. Underneath, it reads “In English, my name means hope. In Spanish, it means too many letters...It is like the number nine” (p. 10). On the back of the square is an explanation of the “My Name” vignette and how Esperanza’s name represents her emerging identity as an independent and hopeful woman.

Choice #2: Males on Mango Street

There are a number of males mentioned in the novel, but only in passing. Find each male that is mentioned in the book and re-write their vignettes from their point of view. Explain how different the novel becomes when written from/by a male narrator. What is gained or lost? Create a new title for the novel and “bind” your vignettes into a new book.

Example: Rewrite “Darius and the Clouds” in Darius’ voice (first person). Written this way, we may learn why he thinks the cloud is “God.” But we may also lose the thoughts of the other little girls.

Choice #3: Mango Street Art Gallery

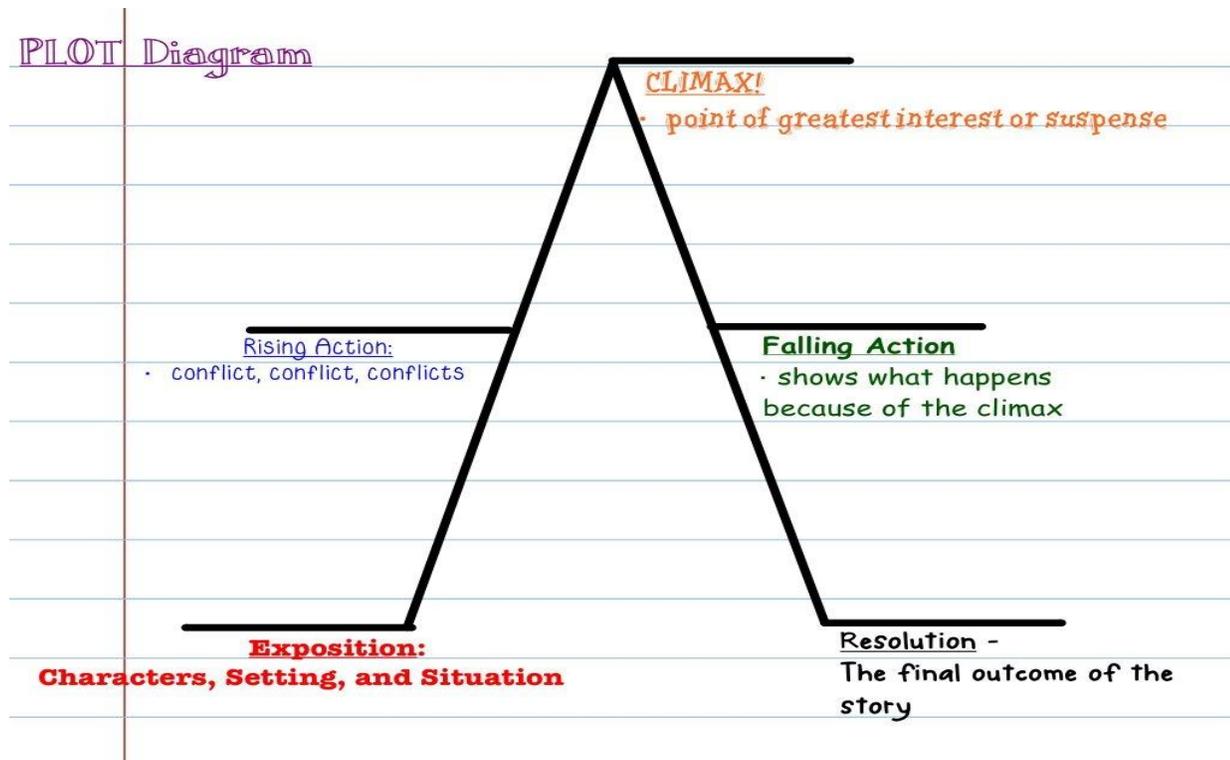
The novel is filled with colorful and descriptive images of Esperanza’s world. Choose 10 vignettes that contain particularly powerful imagery and illustrate different events, people, or places on Mango Street. On the back of each artistic rendering, explain why you chose to illustrate that particular thing and how you decided which images/figurative language to concentrate on. Use quotations from the text in your explanation.

Example: Illustrate Gil’s Furniture Store and, on the back, summarize the important scene that happened there. Include a quotation from that vignette.

Scoring Rubric for project:

Content	30 points	
Quotes & support	25 points	
Creativity & neatness	15 points	
Total	70 points possible	

The House on Mango Street Plot Pyramid



Directions: Answer the following on notebook paper. Use complete sentences.

1. Describe the **exposition**. (Setting & characters)
2. **Rising Action.** Tell about 5 important events leading up to the climax of the book. Be sure to include chapter names & page numbers. Choose events related to the climax.
3. **Climax** – What was the high point of action or turning point of the story? Include chapter name & a page numbers?
4. **Falling Action & resolution** –What happens following the climax and how is the problem solved?
5. **Theme** – what is the life lesson to be learned from this novel? (Think beyond Esperanza.)