**Snapshots of Home**

**Overview**

At the end of *The House on Mango Street*, Esperanza tells us about her talent of telling stories:

I like to tell stories. I tell them inside my head. I tell them after the mailman says, Here’s your mail. Here’s your mail he said.

I make a story for my life, for each step my brown shoe takes. I say, “And so she trudged up the wooden stairs, her sad brown shoes taking her to the house she never liked.”

I like to tell stories. I am going to tell you a story about the girl who didn’t want to belong. (109)

In saying this about telling stories, Esperanza’s and Sandra Cisneros’s voices are blending together, Cisneros asserting that much of our identities exist in our stories. Rather than giving us a straightforward story, however, Cisneros uses the form of the vignette to give us snapshots of Esperanza’s life while living on Mango Street, a poor, rundown Latino district in Chicago. The snapshots provided blend the innocence of a maturing girl with the dangerous, stark, and sordid realities of life in such a neighborhood, along with Esperanza’s desires to escape that life and her devotion to those people she left behind. In providing such snapshots, Cisneros uses vivid imagery and concise diction to provide her readers a series of images that then shape a potential collage and plot for Esperanza, both her past and her potential future. It is now your turn to try your hand at creating snapshots of your lives.

**Task**

You are to compose 8 – 10 original vignettes that are snapshots of some aspect of your lives. These stories can be of places significant to you, memorable moments, descriptions of peculiar and/or influential people in your lives and/or communities, and/or episodes of your dreams and aspirations. Try to find things in your lives that you can take actual pictures of and include those pictures as part of your collection and add these to the collections. You are to use *The House on Mango Street* as your model in brainstorming and composing your vignettes where you attempt to mimic Cisneros’s use of imagery, voice, tone, and concise language to create your own snapshots of your lives and communities.

**Nuts and Bolts**

* Each vignette must be at least ½ page and no more than 2 pages long.
* Vignettes are revised and edited, polished and free of significant grammatical errors
* Title page
  + Creative title for your collection as a whole
  + Name and Date
  + An attractive image that helps establish the theme of your collection
* Creative titles for each vignette
* A collective unity through your collection

**Audience**

In addition to turning your collection in to me for a grade, you are required to give a copy of your collection as a gift to an adult who you either respect and admire or someone you think would really enjoy your anthology. See the attached receipt for that person to fill out and return. Completing this portion of the assignment is 5 five added to the final grade.

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|  | Ineffective (<70) | C (70 – 79) | B (80 – 89) | A (90 – 100) |
| Title Page | Title page is missing some required elements and is composed in a sloppy manner. | Title page contains all required elements, but it may appear to be haphazardly designed. Some drafting and revision may be necessary. | Title page contains all required elements and looks professional in appearance. | Title page contains all required elements, looks professional in appearance, and the image clearly acts to unify the vignettes. |
| Vignettes | Vignettes lack a central unity, more than one may be missing, and/or many are simply too short or too long. | Vignettes are engaging to the reader and there is an attempt to unify them thematically, but some vignettes may not readily connect with the others. One vignette may be missing and/or vignettes do not meet length requirements | Vignettes are composed with distinct purpose and work together to create a thematic unity for the collection as a whole. At least five vignettes are present and all meet the required lengths. | Vignettes are composed and organized with a clear, distinct, and meaningful purpose in mind where each vignette work in tandem with the others to create a clear and strong thematic unity for the collection as a whole. At least five vignettes are present and all meet the required lengths. |
| Style/Figurative Language | There is little to no attempt to use figurative language imagery in the descriptions in the vignettes. | There is an attempt to use figurative language to create effective imagery, but there may be difficulty in communicating that which the author is seeing in her/his mind’s eye. | Vignettes contain a distinct style and use figurative language to create effective imagery in creating the intended snapshots | Vignettes show a sophisticated use of figurative language to create very vivid imagery in creating the snapshots. |
| Presentation and Design | Collection as a whole is riddled with significant errors and lack of revision and editing. | Some vignettes show a concern for quality, but others show the need for further editing and revision. Any images may be randomly inserted onto a page. | Collection as a whole shows a concern for quality and contains few significant errors in Standard English and document design. | Collection as a whole shows a high concern for quality, containing very few significant errors in Standard English, and seamlessly integrates images into pertinent vignettes. |

I, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, avow that I have received an original copy of

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_’s project. I have looked through it and would like to make the following comments:

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_