

9th grade English focuses on World Literature, offering students materials from a range of times and places. *House on Mango Street*, while American Literature, invites students into the topic, recognizing the diversity in their own country. *House on Mango Street* by Sandra Cisneros is told from the perspective of a young Latina girl growing up in Chicago. The book is short, told in vignettes of only a few pages each, but written with great artistry and packed full of rich imagery.

Related assessments:

- **Annotations:** As you read, you will complete the annotation assignment below. This will be due the first week of school in August.
- **Creative Writing:** You must also write two vignettes about your own neighborhood (200-400 words each, typed). A vignette is a short snapshot, in this case nonfiction. It does not necessarily tell a complete story. These will be due the first week of school in August.

Annotation Assignment:

In addition to reading, you must annotate *House on Mango Street* (write directly in your book) and present your book for a grade.

Annotating is a very useful exercise. It can help you navigate the book during discussions, study for tests and quizzes, find passages for essays, and, most importantly, better understand the text as you read.

Requirements:

- Every CHAPTER should have a summary (see below).
- Every PAGE should have one additional annotation (see below).
- You must WRITE WORDS IN THE BOOK for an annotation/summary to count. Underlining or highlighting by itself does not count.

Summaries:

- Write a brief summary at the beginning or end of each chapter after you've read it explaining what happens in that chapter. Include key characters and events.

Additional Annotations:

Here are some options for what to annotate:

- Circle words that are unfamiliar then write their definitions in the margin (after you have looked up their meanings).

- Underline or bracket [] passages that are interesting to you or seem important. Then, in the margin write a brief note on why you think that passage is important.
- Ask questions. If something confuses you or you feel like there is information about an event, character, scene, etc. that you should know more about, write your question in the margin.
- Make predictions. Do you think you know what might happen? Does something seem like it may be important later? Do you think this scene might foreshadow something later? Write your prediction in the margin.
- Clarify. If you figure something out or have an epiphany while reading but fear you may forget it later, write down a brief summary of the passage or your ideas in the margin.