

6th Grade Summer Reading 2019-2020
House on Mango Street

The House on Mango Street, shares the coming-of-age story of a young Mexican-American woman. Written in short vignettes of 1-4 pages, the book's poem-like sentences, real-world themes and unvarnished characters invite young readers to see their own lives in the life of Esperanza, the first-person narrator.

Because *The House on Mango Street* explores tween themes such as family and maturity, I want you as a parent to feel that your child's developing mind is safe in the world of social realism – fiction that shows life as it is for a particular person and in a particular time. For instance, in this novella, published in 1984, your child will encounter allusions to sexual maturity and domestic abuse.

As Presidio, we believe that books with artistic merit and social value must not shy away from the real issues our students will face in middle school. Because Ms. Cisneros depicts such sensitive subjects through the eyes of an insightful young narrator, we believe this book teaches young readers to learn from the broad spectrum of social experiences awaiting them in adolescence. The book isn't scared of beauty, nor ugliness – so it should be for its readers.

During the first two weeks of school, students will be expected to create a study guide and answer key as well as an essay question with a full multi-paragraph response.

