

House on Mango Street Study Guide
 “Laughter”: Pages 17-18

Directions: Answer the following questions.

1. To determine how the narrator feels about herself in comparison to others, complete the chart and analyze how she describes her laugh versus Rachel and Lucy's laugh.

Word from the Quote	Definition of the Word	Based on these definitions, what is the narrator saying about herself.
"surprised"		
"pile of dishes breaking"		
"shy"		
"ice cream bells"		
"giggle"		

“Louie, His Cousin, & His Other Cousin”: Pages 21-22

2. What can we tell about Louie based on his living situation? Use a direct quote to support your answer.
3. What does the writer (Cisneros) reveal about Louie's female cousin? Use a direct quote to support your answer.
4. How does the reader know that car Louie's cousin drives is a high-end, expensive car? Use 3 short direct quotes to answer this question.

“Marin”: Pages 26-27

5. Marin represents some of the women on Mango Street. What does Cisneros (the author) reveal about some women's lives? When analyzing these quotes, read them in context of the story – read the sentence before and after the quote to help you better understand the meaning.

How the Marin thinks she will improve her life	What the description means
"meet someone...who might marry you and take you to live in a big house far away" (26)	
"We never see Marin until her aunt comes home from work, and even then she can only stay out in front" (27).	
"is waiting for a car to stop, a star to fall, someone to change her life" (27)	

“Those Who Don't”: Page 28

6. Identify a 1-word topic for this story.
7. What is Cisneros (the author) saying about that topic? Write a developed theme that is a sentence.

“There Was an Old Woman She Had so Many Children She Didn't Know What to Do”:
Pages 29-30

8. How does poverty shape the Vargas children? What is the author saying about poverty?