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Humanities

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**Building Up Confidence**

Everyone must fall, in order to rise. In the story *The House On Mango Street*, by Sandra Cisneros, a young girl by the name of Esperanza, lives in an environment she isn’t proud of. In the beginning of the story, Esperanza is insecure and dependent, but by the end she is confident and empowered.

Esperanza is immature and ashamed. She isn’t proud of her name as she is deciding to change it as she says, “I would like to baptize myself under a new name, a name more like the real me, the one nobody sees.” (Cisneros 11). Esperanza doubts anyone notices her presence. Esperanza is being childish, because she thinks that the name you’re given, has a way of affecting who you are as person. Esperanza doesn’t appreciate her looks as she thinks, “...because my feet are ugly, until my uncle who is a liar says, You are the prettiest girl here...” (Cisneros 47). Esperanza is insecure when her uncle calls her pretty, because she calls him a liar for complimenting her. She also focuses on small details that others wouldn’t notice, like her feet. Esperanza is self conscious and immature because she’s still young, and she hasn’t had many experiences yet to teach her otherwise.

Esperanza is a empowered and confident young woman, who is willing to reach out for others. Instead of turning her back on those who need her help, she plans to do something about it when she says, “They will not know I have gone away to come back. For the ones I left behind. For the ones who cannot out.” (Cisneros 110). Esperanza now has the power to overcome what she always feared wasn’t possible. She now has the pride to return back and help others conquer the problems they’re dealing with. Esperanza is also self-sufficient, for she will no longer wait on others, as she says, “I have begun my own silent war. Simple. Sure. I am the one who leaves the table like a man, without putting back the chair or picking up the plate.” (Cisneros 89). Esperanza won’t assist the men. She wants to get attended instead. She will no longer wait on others, or have someone control her destiny. Esperanza now has the power to choose and decide for herself instead of leaving that up to others. Due to the experiences in her life, she became positive and independent.

Esperanza is self conscious and ashamed, but towards the end of the book she becomes self-assured and proud. Esperanza doesn’t have much wisdom, considering that she is a child. Since she is young without many experiences to rely on, she is immature and disoriented in life because she doesn’t know any better. As she grows older, she witnesses the difficulties and flaws of her neighbors. Esperanza also has her own experiences, which makes her stronger. Everyone must overcome difficulties in life in order to improve and become a better person.