House On Mango Street Discussion Questions

1. In *Boys and Girls*, where does Esperanza parrot her parent’ admonitions to her?
2. To what does Esperanza aspire in this story?
3. Cite and explain the metaphors E uses for Nenny and her.
4. In *My Name*, list the things her name means in Spanish.
5. Tell the story of Esperanza’s grandmother and how Esperanza assumes she spent her life after the abduction.
6. How are Esperanza and her grandmother the same?
7. What names would Esperanza prefer? Why? What do her choices leave the reader thinking about her?
8. How is the title *Cathy, Queen of Cats* a double entendre?
9. To which neighbors are we introduced by Cathy and what do we learn of them?
10. Cathy is a liar, a gossip and thoughtless. What proves each of these statements?
11. Esperanza’s name preferences show she is very naïve, sweet, and young. What in *this* story suggest she is naïve, sweet and young?
12. Come up with two questions a reader might have about the title *Our Good Day*.
13. How does Esperanza describe the girls that Cathy describes as “raggedy as rats.”
14. Describe the conflict Esperanza experiences as Rachel cries out “Five dollars.”
15. Explain Nenny’s role in purchasing the bike.
16. Describe the scene just prior to the actual riding of the bike. What are they discussing/deciding?
17. Literally describe the girls’ positions and experiences when they first begin their ride.
18. In the first full paragraph on pg. 16, what is the topic sentence? Read the next two sentences carefully. How do they “prove” or “support” the topic sentence.
19. How is Rachel portrayed consistently in her comments to the fat woman?
20. Read and comment on the last paragraph of the story...especially the sentence structure. Is it orthodox/normal or not? Are her choices/structures effective? Why or why not?
21. Esperanza, with a child’s innocence, sometimes says some things that sounds really harsh. How, for example, does she describe R & L’s lips?
22. Contrast the laughter of R & L’s family with that of Nenny and Esperanza.
23. Why does Nenny say, “Yes, that’s Mexico all right”?
24. What are several things that we learn about Esperanza in this chapter? Note especially her purchase, and her reaction to Nenny and the music box.
25. What do we lean of Nenny in this chapter? She continues to be bold, but what else?
26. List three things Gil does that make the reader like him.