

The House on Mango Street, Freshman Reading Log
As you read your book, please do the following:

- 1) Create a character list on the *inside front cover*. Write down names and relationships.
- 2) Identify vocabulary words: new words, words/definitions in which you are uncertain. Circle them in the book and define them in the margins.
- 3) Write down questions in the margins of the book.
- 4) Respond to your book with a two-page review. This will be collected on the second day of school.
 - A. State the *TITLE* of your book and the author in the first sentence. Do not call the author by his/her first name. Write in complete sentences.
 - B. Answer at least three (3) questions from below that best demonstrate your understanding of the book. Start each answer with a topic sentence, and then give appropriate examples, reasons, and details.
 - C. Questions:
 - I. What is the major weakness of the novel you read? Support your answer with appropriate examples and details.
 - II. We learn about characters by WHAT THEY SAY, WHAT THEY DO, and WHAT OTHER CHARACTERS SAY ABOUT THEM. Using these three ways, describe who you feel is the most realistic character in the novel.
 - III. All reading should have some value. What value is there for the average reader in reading his novel?
 - IV. What is the theme of the novel? How do the events of the book support that theme?
 - V. How do minor conflicts (subplots) tie in with or influence the main conflict?

- 5) In the *back cover of your book*, write down the following:

Who else should read this book? Should anyone not be encouraged to read this book? Why? Would you recommend the book to a friend or fellow classmate?

How have you changed after reading the book? What did you learn that you never knew before?

SEE NEXT PAGE

AFTER READING THE BOOK, BE PREPARED TO DISCUSS THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS OVER THE FIRST FEW DAYS OF THE SCHOOL YEAR:

- What emotions did the book invoke: laughter, tears, smiles, anger? Or, was the book just boring and meaningless? Record some of your reactions.
- Sometimes books touch you, reminding you of your own life, as part of the larger human experience. Are there connections between the book and your own life? Or, does the book remind you of an event (or events) that happened to someone you know? Does the book remind you of what happened in another book you've read?
- Would you like to be one of the characters? Which of the characters would you become, if you could? Why? If there's something about the character that you'd want to change, what is it?
- If you were the author, would you have changed the name of a character, or altered the location of a scene? What does the name mean to you? Do you have a negative connotation associated with the name (or the place)? What would you name the character instead? What would you use as a setting?
- Does the book leave you with questions you would like to ask? What are they? Would you like to direct your questions at a particular character? What questions would you like to ask the author of the book? Are they questions that you may be able to answer by reading more about the author's life and/or works?
- Are you confused about what happened (or didn't happen) in the book? What events or characters do you not understand? Does the use of language in the book confuse you? How did your confusion affect how you liked the book? Is there anything that the author could have done to make what happened (or didn't happen) more clear?
- Is there an idea in the book that makes you stop and think, or prompts questions? Identify the idea and explain your responses.
- What are your favorite lines/quotes? Copy them into your reading log/journal and explain why these passages caught your attention.
- Consider the characters. Which one is your favorite? Is there a character you hate/detest/despise? Why? What traits could you change about the characters that would change how you think about them? Do you think that any of the characters represent *real* people? Does anything about a particular character seem to be related to the author's true personality--who the writer is?