As we read *The House on Mango Street* we will be writing our own creative vignettes. You may choose to write non-fictional or fictional pieces, but they must adhere to the guidelines below. Your protagonist can be male, female, non-binary, or undefined. You will be given a prompt for each piece and you will be asked to display an understanding of a poetic device in your own creative writing. You will be graded on originality, execution, and language mastery. Have fun!

**Prompt 1: “My Name”**

After reading Esperanza’s vignette about the origin of her name, take a minute to think about the meaning of your own name. Where did it come from? Why did your parents choose it for you? How does the sound of your own name affect you? Treat your name as a **symbol**, as a thing that is both representative of you and something larger; a feeling, a memory, a culture. Use your imagination. 250 words.

**Prompt 2: “There Was an Old Woman She Had So many Children She Didn’t Know What to Do”**

After reading about Rosa Vargas’ kids, think about a wild family from your neighborhood you remember from growing up or make up a family. Use **hyperbole** to describe their antics. Think of the craziest, most over-the-top language you can to write this vignette, and try to tell a story with a beginning, middle and end. Introduce the family and its characters, tell us of a conflict that arises, and resolve that conflict in your vignette. Have fun with this one, be as wacky as you can be! 300 words.

**Prompt 3: “Hips”**

This vignette deals with Esperanza’s development as a woman. She says “One day you wake up and they are there. Ready and waiting like a new Buick with the keys in the ignition.” She uses a simile to describe her hips. What was the biggest change you experienced coming to middle school? Was it a physical, emotional or intellectual change? Was it a little bit of all three? In this vignette explore the topic of growing up using **similes** and **metaphors** the way Cisneros does. 250 words.

**Prompt 4: “Four Skinny Trees”**

Cisneros uses **personification** in this vignette when describing trees. She gives trees human qualities, and we see that she’s using trees as stand-ins for Esperanza and her siblings. Your challenge for this vignette is to personify something in nature. Use your object or natural phenomena to express a larger idea through personification. 250 words.

**Prompt 5: “Mango Says Goodbye Sometimes”**

In this final vignette, Esperanza seems to be talking to her childhood self. I want you to write a letter to your younger self. What have you learned? What do you want your younger self to know about her future? You may use whatever language you’d like for this final piece. 300 words.