

9th Grade Honors Summer Reading Assignment

Novel: *When I was Puerto Rican* by Esmerelda Santiago

If you would like to order a copy, it is available at:

https://www.amazon.com/When-Was-Puerto-Rican-Lawrence/dp/0306814528/ref=sr_1_1?crid=3CGYS0Z16X0H&keywords=when+i+was+puerto+rican&qid=1654009536&s=books&sprefix=when+i+was+%2Cstripbooks%2C124&sr=1-1

or

Here is the PDF of the novel

https://www.academia.edu/43791386/When_I_Was_Puerto_Rican_by_Esmeralda_Santiago (Download and say “no thanks to the full package)

Read the novel over the course of the summer. As you are reading, take note of the cultural aspects of the family. Note how the family, specifically Esmerelda, blends their Puerto Rican heritage with life in America. Along with your double-sided journal entries, you must also create a scrapbook/photo album about your own family. The project will be due in September. Due dates will be discussed the first week of school. Create a Google Slide presentation that you will present to the class.

On the slides, address different aspects of your family’s cultural heritage including, but not limited to:

- *Food
- *Holidays/ Traditions
- *Music
- *Religion
- *Travel
- * Any other customs

You may include pictures, video links and anything else you would find in a scrapbook. You can use either real pictures or things you find online, in magazines, drawings etc. You should also include a written description on each slide that lets me know what I am seeing. What is the significance, and what does it represent about your family?

Summer Reading Journal Examples and Directions

- Your **Journal Entries** must be typed.
- You must have at least **ten** entries.
- Each entry must be approximately a quarter-page in length.
- Be sure to include specific quotes from the text as you express your thoughts. List the page numbers of the quotes. Your entries must represent the whole novel, not just a small section.
- Your highlighted quotes should focus on vocabulary, descriptions, themes, or figurative language (**similes, metaphors, imagery, etc.**) that you find compelling.
 - On the left side column of your journal, you should underline at least one word that is the focal point of your entry.
 - Do your own work, and please proofread it for spelling and punctuation.

If you have any questions, I may be reached @nmastrangelo@lawrence.org.

Journal Prompts

The following are **possible, but not exclusive**, starter sentences for your responses to the quoted passages in your journal:

1. I do not understand...
2. I noticed that...
3. I now understand...
4. This character reminds me of...because...
5. I think the setting is important because...
6. I think the relationship between _____ and _____ is interesting because...
7. I really like this (idea, person, attitude, etc.) because...

8. Something I noticed (appreciated, wondered, etc.) is...
9. My favorite passage (or quote) is _____ because...
10. I like (dislike) _____ because...

The following are sample journal entries from
The House on Mango Street

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| <p>Journal Entry # 1 of 10</p> <p>“The house on Third Street is ours, and we don’t have to pay rent to anybody, or share the yard with the people downstairs, or be careful not to make too much noise, and there isn’t a landlord banging on the ceiling with a broom.”</p> <p>Theme: What “ownership” means to a family</p> | <p>Page 8</p> | <p>I noticed that she is listing experiences that people who rent homes and apartments might have experienced as well. This might pull those readers closer to her through common experience. It also serves to pull the reader who has never rented into her narrative. She lists multiple inconveniences and negative aspects of this lifestyle (paying rent, sharing a yard, having to be quiet) and this begins to create an image. While Esperanza’s family no longer has to deal with these problems, their neighbors on Mango Street do. It provides a window into a lifestyle. It helps show the difference between the new feeling of owning a house and the old feeling of being a tenant in someone else’s house.</p> |
| <p>Entry #2 of 10</p> <p>“But my mother’s hair, like little rosettes, like little candy circles all curly and pretty because she pinned it in pin-curls all day, sweet to put your nose into when she is holding you, holding</p> | <p>Page 10-11</p> | <p>Something I concluded here is that the long list of similes and metaphors describing her mother’s hair must be important. She describes her father’s hair in one sentence—as well as the hair of the other family members. The repetition of “holding you” is a clue as well. She obviously has a strong connection to her mother and it must be the most important relationship in her life—at least in her family. Other evidence of this closeness is the association of a smell—the</p> |

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| <p>you and you feel safe, is the warm smell of bread before you bake it, is the smell when she makes room for you on her side of the bed.”</p> | | <p>smell of bread—with her mother. Olfactory memories are some of the strongest. It reminds me of smell associations I have, like the smell of Coppertone sunscreen and the trip my family and I took to Mexico. Every time I smell it, I am transported back to that carefree time—that’s why I still buy it. Warm bread connotes comfort and care. It takes time and patience to bake.</p> |
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Sample Journal Entries