This unit is centered around excerpts from the novel *The House on Mango Street*, by Sandra Cisneros. The chapters students will study are appropriate for Grade 4. Students may wish to read the full book or other parts of the book. Note, many are mature and difficult for students of this age.

What's the story?

The lessons build on each other throughout the unit to help students explore the text with **multiple readings**, **uncovering the rich** and **lyrical language** used throughout the story.

What will my student learn?

Students will learn to be slow, **careful readers** who can peel back many **layers of meaning** in a text. They will dig deeper and discover new meaning as they **read excerpts** from the novel.

Students will move flexibly between **reading** and **writing**. They will engage in lessons that teach them to take what they have learned in their reading and **apply that understanding to their writing**.

Conversation starters

Ask your student questions about the unit to promote discussion and continued learning:

1. At this point in your reading, what do you know about the main character? What haven't you learned about the main character yet?

2. Why do you think the author waited to reveal the name of the narrator of the story?
   Follow up: Once her name was revealed, how do you think she feels about her name? Why? What would she rather be called?

3. You have been learning about themes in your reading. What is a theme? What is a theme that you have explored in *The House on Mango Street*?

4. You have been discussing character aspirations in this unit. What are some of Esperanza's aspirations? What are some of her mother's aspirations?
   Follow up: Why do you think Esperanza had these aspirations? Did her mother achieve her aspirations? Why not? What are some of your aspirations? What are some things you will need to do to achieve those?

5. What are some of the types of figurative language you have learned about?
   Follow up: Can you give me some examples of those types of figurative language you have seen in your reading?