Fuller 1

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Humanities- ½

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**Esperanza Finds Her Confidence**

            Eleanor Roosevelt once said, “You gain strength, courage, and confidence by every experience in which you really stop to look fear in the face. Do the things you think you cannot do.” This quote applies to a young girl named Esperanza in the book The House on Mango Street by Sandra Cisneros because she is very insecure about a lot of things. Her name is not pretty, she has big feet, and her home is not the ideal home.
            Esperanza is insecure about her name. For instance, “At school they say
my name funny, as if the syllables hurt the roof of your mouth. But in Spanish my name is made out of a softer something like silver, not quite as thick as my sisters name--Magdalena--which it uglier than mine” (Cisneros 11). Esperanza shows her insecurity with her name by telling us that they say her name incorrectly. She feels that everybody else has a normal name except her. “I would like to baptize myself under a new name, a name more like the real me, the one nobody sees. Esperanza as Lisandra or Maritza or Zeze the X. Yes. Something like Zeze the X will do” (Cisneros 11). She does not like her name at all and she wishes it could be changed to something different, something that fits her persona. Esperanza’s name, Esperanza, makes her feel insecure.
            Esperanza begins to gain self-confidence. Specifically, “My uncle and me bow and he walks me back in my thick shoes to my mother who is proud to be my mother. All night the boy who is a man watched me dance” (Cisneros 48). Esperanza in this vignette, states that she does not want to dance because her feet are big and her shoes are ugly. She is embarrassed by her feet

 Fuller 2

and also because the guy she is interested in is watching her. She finds her motivation to be the boy she is fascinated in. She gets up and starts dancing with her uncle obviously she starts to gain confidence because it takes a lot of courage to get up there and dance while she is in deep denial.
            Esperanza is very timid about her living situation. Although it could be worse she does not realize it so therefore she is very uncertain about this situation. There is a conflict that rises between Esperanza and her teacher because her teacher asked ‘Do you live there?’ As she pointed to an old raggedy beat up house that is Esperanza’s home, but she denies it. She tells her teacher ‘No’ with shame as she let her head fall to her chest. The teacher was trying to get it out of Esperanza to tell her the truth. Esperanza should not be uncertain about this kind of thing because she is not in the worst situation ever.
            “One day I will own my own house, but I won’t forget who I am or where I came from” (Cisneros 86). This quote clearly demonstrates Esperanza’s confidence. It indicates that she has matured from her flaws. She understands now that as being fully-fledged nothing matters. She does not need to compare herself to other girls anymore. She can just live her live with no cares in this world. Esperanza is very uncertain about a lot of things, but soon she realizes it is okay so she lets it go and she becomes a confident woman.

Fuller 3

 **Work Cited**Cisneros, Sandra. The House on Mango Street.  New York: Vintage, 1984.