

APPENDICES

Synopsis of Jamaica Kincaid's Lucy

Lucy Josephine Potter is a 19-year-old girl from a small island in the West Indies who has a strong desire to leave her life in her homeland in order to form her own self-identity. She does not think that her homeland is suitable for her since she has her own opinion on how she should live the life. Besides, her mother becomes one of the excuses for Lucy to leave her homeland because she assumes that her mother only wants to dominate her life. Lucy sees her mother as a woman who does not live her life as a woman should do. In Lucy's point of view, her mother is a woman who has been too devoted in serving her father, even though her father has plenty of mistresses.

Lucy's negative point of view in coping with an unpleasant situation that she now faces, turns her into a girl with a strong determination to live as far as she can from her family. Lucy makes North America as her dreamland that she thinks will save "her small drowning soul", herself and her soul that cannot find happiness in her life because her past life in her homeland makes her feel uncomfortable. Her real dreamland does not appear as everything that she has imagined all this time and the new surroundings make her feel homesick. All of these cause her to assume that the place makes her feel uncomfortable and she does not know what she should do for

the future. Her negative point of view leads her to think that she will have an uncertain future and it is getting more and more uncertain every single day. And the most surprising thing is the fact that she misses her homeland. Even so, her negative attitude turns her into a person with a strong determination. She is determined not to return to her homeland because she wants to keep a distance between her and her family. Lucy thinks that family is “a millstone around your neck” that will put a burden on her shoulders. Lucy’s negative point of view in coping the problem that she deals with makes her keep a distance with her family, especially with her own mother. She even refuses to read every single letter that her mother has sent her.

Lucy feels happy to have many relationships with many men without being attached in a deeper relationship with all of them. In her relationship with some men, Lucy seems to show that she is not a weak woman like her mother who has been too devoted to her father, who has many mistresses. But in time, it turns out that Lucy feels the emptiness in her life. The emptiness that she feels is caused by the fact that up to this day she does not recognize her true self so she does not know what she wants in her life.

The emptiness within her makes her finally realize that what she has done in her life has tortured her. All this time, she tries hard not to become a woman like her mother, but she realizes she has become the very same woman as her mother. Seeing the reality that now she lives all by herself does not make her feel happy. On the other hand, she feels ashamed of what she has done. Her negative point of view and attitude in coping with the unsuitable life make her unable to find her true self.

Furthermore, she is unable to cope with her problems in a wise attitude because she always looks at everything from the negative point of view. Therefore, she cannot accept herself as just what it is and take a positive action to face her problems.

Synopsis of Sandra Cisneros's The House on Mango Street

Esperanza Cordero is a teenager who comes from a poor family and neighbourhood in the Latino section of Chicago. Her family moves a lot from one place to another and all she wants is to have a steady house that she and her family can live in. The house on Mango Street is a house that is finally owned by the Esperanza family. Even so, the house is not what she and her family have dreamt about. Mango Street is still a poor neighbourhood that makes Esperanza have a low self-confidence because other people underestimate her. Esperanza wants a house in a neighbourhood that can make her feel appreciated. But her wise attitude makes her realize that for now, her family cannot afford to fulfil her dream.

At first, the poor neighbourhood of the Mango Street makes Esperanza try to deny the fact that she comes from the neighbourhood and lives in the neighbourhood. But through her own interaction and observation with the people in the neighbourhood, she begins to understand her neighbourhood with her positive and wise attitude. Through her interaction and observation with the people of Mango Street, she begins to realize that there is a form of life that probably will come to her someday as a grown - up woman. She sees that the majority of the women in Mango street are women whose freedoms are trapped. Most of them are only housewives who stay at home without being able to do what they want.

Knowing the reality that there are plenty of women who have to live their lives with all their limitations and obstacles, Esperanza strongly desires that one day, she can leave Mango Street so she can fulfil her dream to become a woman who can do a lot of things for her own life and be appreciated by other people. Esperanza's mother always says to her not to become a woman like her mother who is only a housewife. Although her mother is only a housewife, Esperanza always admires her mother and she never underestimates her mother.

Although she formerly thought that Mango Street was not the right place for her, her positive and wise attitude makes her accept the reality. Her wise attitude makes her more open in dealing with all the facts of life in her neighbourhood. The poor neighbourhood and the women's life in the neighbourhood do not cause her to deny that she actually comes from Mango Street. Through Mango Street, she learns so much and begins to find her true self as a whole. She starts to know what she should do for her future and what she does not want for her choice of life. To have a positive attitude in coping with inconveniences in her life enables Esperanza to accept herself as what it is and enables her to recognize herself more and also to determine the actions that she needs to take for her life in the future.

Biography of Jamaica Kincaid

Jamaica Kincaid is one of the Caribbean writers of the post-colonialism era in literature. She was born as Elaine Potter Richardson on May 25, 1949 in Antigua, a small island in the West Indies. She never met her biological father and lived with her mother and stepfather, who work as a carpenter.

After having graduated from her junior high-school during the time of British colonization, she migrated to New York and had as an au pair. Later on, she studied photography at the New York School for Social Research after leaving the family for whom she worked, and also attended Franconia College in New Hampshire for a year.

Her first writing experience involved a series of articles for Ingenue magazine and her stories have appeared in the Paris Review, Rolling Stone and The New Yorker. In 1973, she changed her name to Jamaica Kincaid because her family disapproved of her writing. Her first book, At the Bottom of The River (1983), was awarded the Morton Dauwen Zabel Award of the American Academy of Arts and Letters and was nominated for the PEN/Faulkner Award. Her second novel, Lucy, was praised by the Wall Street Journal as "brilliant"; moreover, Plume as the publisher of Lucy was also proud to have published it in 1991.

Besides that, Kincaid was a recipient of the Lila Wallace-Reader's Digest Fund's Annual Writer's Award in 1992 and Anisfield Wolf Book Award in the 1997, which was established 60 years ago to recognize books that illuminate the rich diversity of human cultures.

Kincaid later married Allen Shawn, a composer and a professor at the Bennington College, and they now have two children and live in Vermont.

Biography of Sandra Cisneros

Sandra Cisneros was born on December 20, 1954 in Chicago as the third child and the only daughter among seven children. She is an American novelist,

short-story writer, essayist and poet. She is considered as the first of Hispanic-American writers who have achieved commercial success. Although Cisneros has only a handful of poetry and short story collections, she has gained a wide critical acclaim and a popular success. Having influenced by her childhood experiences and ethnic heritage as the daughter of a Mexican father and Chicana mother, Cisneros addresses poverty, cultural suppression, self-identity, and gender roles in her fiction and poetry.

In 1976 Cisneros received her B.A. from Loyola University and her M.F.A from the University of Iowa Writers' Workshop in 1978. She has been a guest professor at California State University, University of California, Berkeley, University of California, Irvine, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor and the University of New Mexico, Albuquerque.

Cisneros' other works include Woman Hollering Creek and Other Stories (1991), and the poetry collections Bad Boys and Loose Woman (1994). She has also written a book for juveniles, Pelitos (1994). Cisneros has also contributed to numerous periodicals, including *Imagine*, *Contact II*, *Glamour*, *The New York Times*, *The Los Angeles Times*, *The Village Voice* and *Revista Chicano-Riquena*.

