

Teacher Guide

Grades 9–12

The House on Mango Street

Sandra Cisneros

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THE HOUSE ON MANGO STREET

by
Sandra Cisneros

Teacher Guide

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Note

The Vintage Contemporaries paperback edition of the book was used to prepare this guide. The page references may differ in the hardcover or other paperback editions.

Please note: Please assess the appropriateness of this book for the age level and maturity of your students prior to reading and discussing it with your class.

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Forty-Four Chapters	16
Chapters contain: Vocabulary, Discussion Questions and Activities, Supplementary Activities, Predictions	
Culminating Activities	43

“Meme Ortiz”—Pages 21-22

Vocabulary:

lopsided 22

gutters 22

Discussion Questions and Activities:

1. How do you know in this chapter that the storyteller is a child? (*She emphasizes the child who lives in each of the houses she introduces as well as the activities of children.*)
2. Is there any humor in the chapter? In the story? (*Answers vary. The descriptions are often funny as are the short, rapid explanations as the last sentence in the chapter.*)
3. Why would someone give a different name when a girl is introduced?

“Louie’s Cousin & His Other Cousins”—Pages 23-25

Vocabulary:

automatically 24

siren 24

flooring 24

Discussion Questions and Activities:

1. Describe Louie’s cousins. (*Marin wore dark hose, lots of make-up, sold Avon, baby, at which Louie’s sisters, and sang from the doorway of the basement apartment. Louie’s other cousin came by in a beautiful Cadillac.*)
2. Why was Louie’s cousin put in handcuffs? (*She had stolen the yellow Cadillac or the police believed.*)
3. Why does the author give more detail about Marin? (*The child observes Marin more.*)

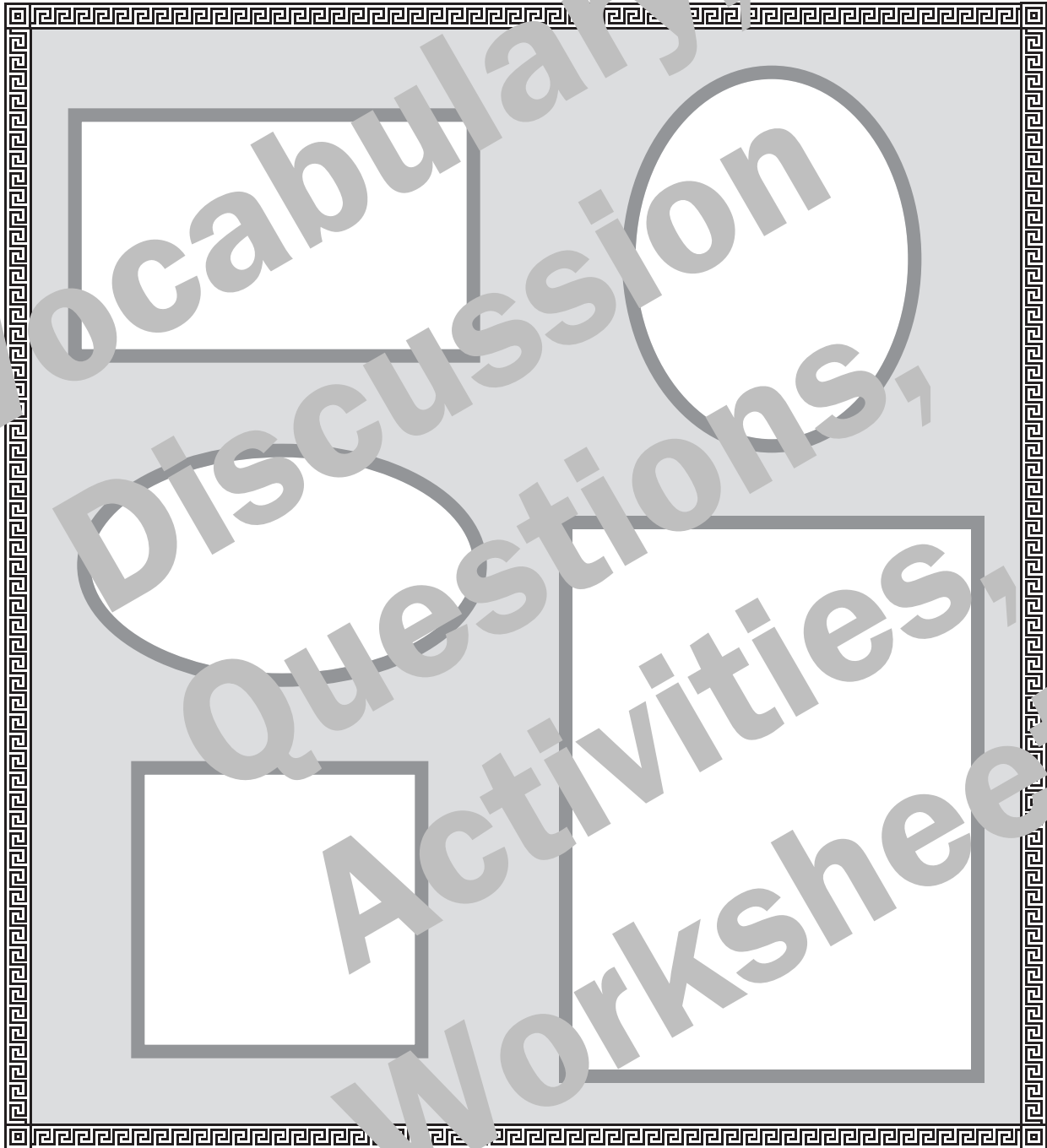
“Marin”—Pages 26-27

Discussion Questions and Activities:

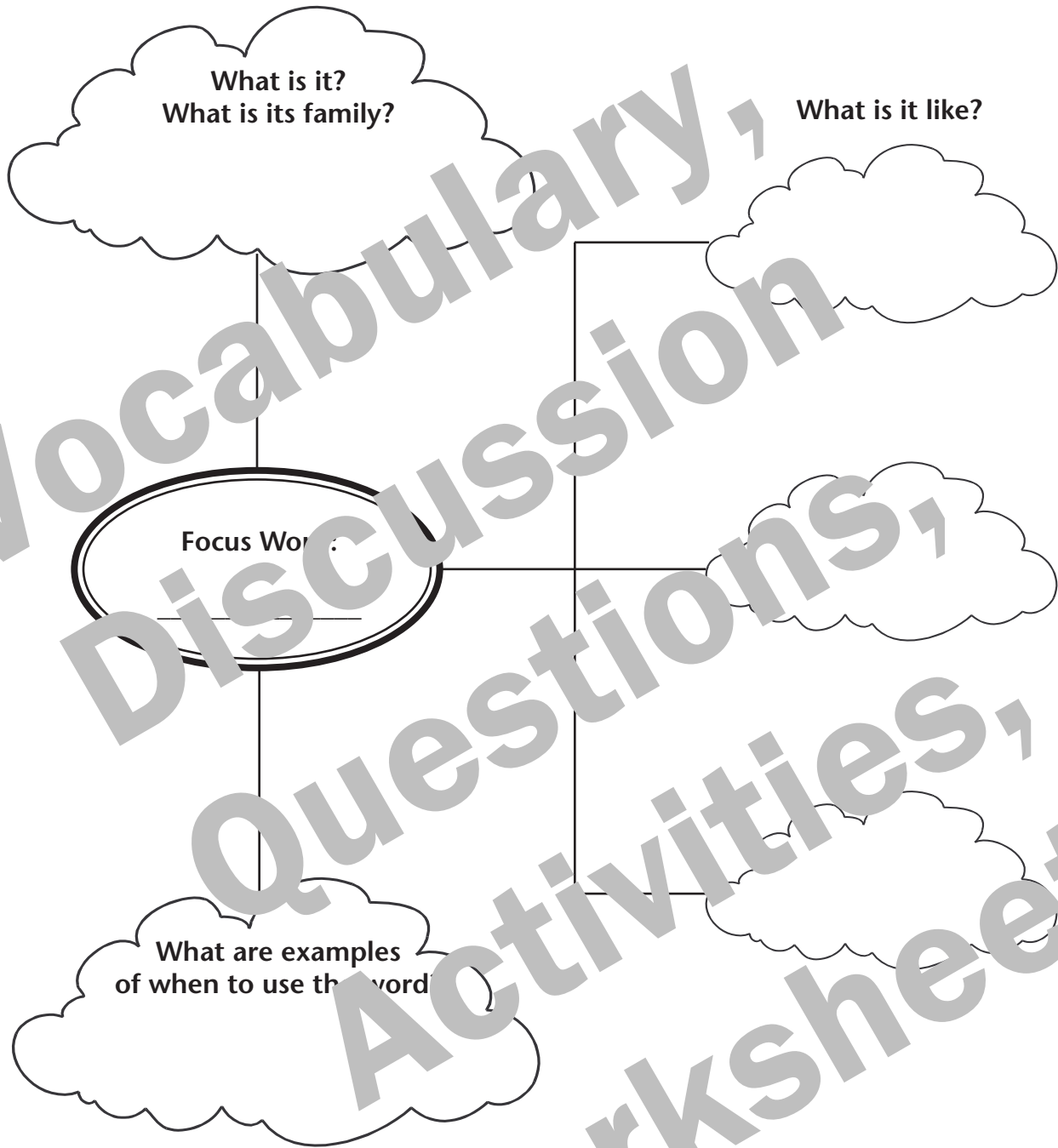
1. Why is Marin living with Louie’s family? (*Her family in Puerto Rico had come to the U. S. to visit relatives. The true reason isn’t known.*)
2. Explain this phrase: “Is waiting for a car to stop, a star to fall, someone to change her life.” (*Marin wishes for something exciting to happen to her, but she doesn’t do anything to make things happen herself. Do you favor this approach to life? What is the author’s attitude?*)

A Photo Collage for *The House on Mango Street*

Directions: In each of the mat holes, illustrate one or a group of the important people and places in the book. Include identification sentences in the manner of a photo collage.



Word Map for a Noun



Vocabulary, Discussion, Questions, Activities, Worksheets

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page 81, "black like raven feathers"

page 81, "flicks her hair back like a satin shawl"

page 84, "pieces of paper that smell like a dime"

page 84, "sad like a house on fire"

page 90, "lungs powerful as many gloves"

page 95, "weeds like so many squinty-eyed stars"

page 103, "laughter like a gun"

page 103, "hands like porcelain"

page 105, "smelled like cinnamon"

See page 105 and additional similes and metaphors:
