Chloe Evans

30 May 2014

Spanish - 3

**Sandra Cisneros**

The Latina author and poet, Sandra Cisneros, has written a mixture of sixteen books and poems throughout her career. Cisneros, born in 1954 on December 20th in Chicago, Illinois, has received numerous awards for her work, including the MacArthur Foundation Fellowship in 1995 and the Texas Medal of the Arts Award in 2003. Because she is widely known, she shows my passion for writing because I hope to be as famous as her one day.

Sandra Cisneros reflects my passion because she inspires so many people with her writing and I hope to be able to inspire just as many. Her novella, *The House On Mango Street*, tells the story of her life growing up. It tells the fortunes and mishaps of her childhood and teaches many lessons through her actions. Because she has received so many awards for her work and is so inspirational, many people look up to her. She reflects my passion because she gets to do what she loves everyday, write. The best thing about writing is that you get to write about whatever you want, whenever you want. I learned about her when we were reading her novella, *The House On Mango Street,* in first period Humanities. She inspired me through her words about her life.

In addition to being a poet and author, Cisneros has had various academic positions. After finishing her MFA degree, in 1978, she taught former high-school dropouts at the Latino Youth High School in Chicago. The publication of *The House on Mango Street* in 1984 secured her a succession of Writer-in-Residence posts at universities in the United States. Shetaught creative writing at institutions such as the University of California, Berkeley and the University of Michigan. More recently she has been a Writer-in-Residence at Our Lady of the Lake University in San Antonio, Texas. Initially, Cisneros attempted to use their kinds of subjects, characters, and settings in her own writing. Unhappy with the results, she then made an important decision; She decided to "rebel" by writing about the neighborhoods in which she had grown up, the people who were her relatives and friends and neighbors. *The House on Mango Street* was begun. Cisneros did not complete the book for several years. Meanwhile, she taught high school and served as a college recruiter and minority student counselor.

Sandra Cisneros was born in 1954 to a Mexican father and a Chicana mother. Cisneros, who ironically grew up in a family of six brothers and a father, writes in one of her poems: "an unlucky fate is mine to be born woman in a family of men." She notes that her six brothers ‘paired off’ according to their ages and birth orders, leaving her ‘odd woman out forever’. Obviously, she grew up in a predetermined role for female with "seven fathers" as she puts it. Because of the closeness of her father and her grandmother, Cisneros moved back to Mexico many times, which helped her to how she was both in the minority in the United States but in the majority in Mexico. However, the repeated moves also left Cisneros searching for permanence, which she found in her reading and books that became her "childhood and adolescent companions".

She shows my passion for writing because she is widely known, I hope to be as famous as her one day. Sandra Cisneros is such a huge inspiration in my, and many other peoples, life. I hope that I will be able to inspire just as many people through my writing.