

*The House on Mango Street* Quote ID Quiz

*In addition to identifying the speaker and person spoken to for each quotation below, identify any people, things, or places in boldface and include them in your discussion of the quotation's significance. Fill in any blanks in the quoted text. If there is no "person spoken to," write "N/A."*

1. "\_\_\_\_\_ is the girl with eyes like Egypt and nylons the color of smoke. The boys at school think she's beautiful because her hair is shiny black like raven feathers and when she laughs, she flicks her hair back like a satin shawl over her shoulders and laughs."

Speaker: \_\_\_\_\_ Person Spoken To: \_\_\_\_\_

Context: \_\_\_\_\_

Significance: \_\_\_\_\_

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2. "Then **he** starts it up and all sorts of things start happening. It's like all of a sudden he let go a million moths all over the dusty furniture and swan-neck shadows and in our bones. It's like drops of water. Or like marimbas only with a funny little plucked sound to it like if you were running your fingers across the teeth of a metal comb."

Speaker: \_\_\_\_\_ Person Spoken To: \_\_\_\_\_

Context: \_\_\_\_\_

Significance: \_\_\_\_\_

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3. "I put it down on paper and then **the ghost** does not ache so much. I write it down and \_\_\_\_\_ says goodbye sometimes. **She** does not hold me with both arms. She sets me free."

Speaker: \_\_\_\_\_ Person Spoken To: \_\_\_\_\_

Context: \_\_\_\_\_

Significance: \_\_\_\_\_

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4. "When I am too sad and too skinny to keep keeping, when I am a tiny thing against so many bricks, then it is I look at \_\_\_\_\_. When there is nothing left to look at on this street. **Four** who grew despite concrete. **Four** who reach and do not forget to reach. **Four** whose only reason is to be and be."

Speaker: \_\_\_\_\_ Person Spoken To: \_\_\_\_\_

Context: \_\_\_\_\_

Significance: \_\_\_\_\_

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5. "And the story goes **she** never forgave **him**. She looked out the window her whole life, the way so many women sit their sadness on an elbow. I wonder if she made the best with what she got or was she sorry because she couldn't be all the things she wanted to be."

Speaker: \_\_\_\_\_ Person Spoken To: \_\_\_\_\_

Context: \_\_\_\_\_

Significance: \_\_\_\_\_

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6. "**We** are tired of being beautiful. Lucy hides the \_\_\_\_\_ under a powerful bushel basket on the back porch, until one Tuesday her mother, who is very clean, throws them away. But no one complains."

Speaker: \_\_\_\_\_ Person Spoken To: \_\_\_\_\_

Context: \_\_\_\_\_

Significance: \_\_\_\_\_

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7. "**That's** nice. **That's** very good, **she** said in her tired voice. **You** just remember to keep writing, \_\_\_\_\_. You must keep writing. It will keep you free, and I said yes, but at that time I didn't know what she meant."

Speaker: \_\_\_\_\_ Person Spoken To: \_\_\_\_\_

Context: \_\_\_\_\_

Significance: \_\_\_\_\_

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8. “**She** said her mama rubs lard on all the places where it hurts. Then at school she’d say she fell. That’s where all the blue places come from. That’s why her skin is always scarred.”

Speaker: \_\_\_\_\_ Person Spoken To: \_\_\_\_\_

Context: \_\_\_\_\_

Significance: \_\_\_\_\_

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9. “This, I suppose, was **the reason** why **we** went **there**. Far away from where our mothers could find us. We and a few old dogs who lived inside the empty cars. We made a clubhouse once on the back of that old blue pickup. And besides, we liked to jump from the roof of one car to another and pretend they were giant mushrooms.”

Speaker: \_\_\_\_\_ Person Spoken To: \_\_\_\_\_

Context: \_\_\_\_\_

Significance: \_\_\_\_\_

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10. “Mama says **she** is a skinny thing, blond and pale like salamanders that have never seen the sun. But I saw her once too and she’s not that way at all. And the boys across the street say she is a tall red-headed lady who wears tight pink pants and green glasses. We never agree on what she looks like, but we do know this. Whenever she arrives, **he** holds her tight by the crook of the arm. They walk fast into the apartment, lock the door behind them and never stay long.”

Speaker: \_\_\_\_\_ Person Spoken To: \_\_\_\_\_

Context: \_\_\_\_\_

Significance: \_\_\_\_\_

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11. “I couldn’t make **them** go away. I couldn’t do anything but cry. I don’t remember. It was dark. I don’t remember. I don’t remember. Please don’t make me tell it all. Why did **you** leave me all alone? I waited my whole life. You’re a liar. They all lied. All the books and magazines, everything that told **it** wrong.”

Speaker: \_\_\_\_\_ Person Spoken To: \_\_\_\_\_

Context: \_\_\_\_\_

Significance: \_\_\_\_\_

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12. "But I like **them**. Their clothes are crooked and old. They are wearing shiny Sunday shoes without socks. It makes their bald ankles all red, but I like them. Especially **the big one** who laughs with all her teeth. I like her even though she lets **the little one** do all the talking."

Speaker: \_\_\_\_\_ Person Spoken To: \_\_\_\_\_

Context: \_\_\_\_\_

Significance: \_\_\_\_\_

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13. "When **you** leave you must remember to come back for the others. A circle, understand? You will always be \_\_\_\_\_. You will always be Mango Street. You can't erase what you know. You can't forget who you are."

Speaker: \_\_\_\_\_ Person Spoken To: \_\_\_\_\_

Context: \_\_\_\_\_

Significance: \_\_\_\_\_

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14. "But I looked too long when **he** rode his bike past me. I looked because I wanted to be brave, straight into the dusty cat fur of his eyes and the bike stopped and he bumped into a parked car, bumped, and I walked fast. It made your blood freeze to have somebody look at you like that. Somebody looked at me. Somebody looked."

Speaker: \_\_\_\_\_ Person Spoken To: \_\_\_\_\_

Context: \_\_\_\_\_

Significance: \_\_\_\_\_

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15. "**You** want a friend, **she** says. Okay, I'll be your friend. But only till next Tuesday. That's when we move away. Got to. Then as if she forgot I just moved in, she says the neighborhood is getting bad."

Speaker: \_\_\_\_\_ Person Spoken To: \_\_\_\_\_

Context: \_\_\_\_\_

Significance: \_\_\_\_\_

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16. "One day you wake up and **they** are there. Ready and waiting like a new Buick with the keys in the ignition. Ready to take you where? [...] They're good for holding a baby when you're cooking, Rachel says, turning the jump rope a little quicker. She has no imagination."

Speaker: \_\_\_\_\_ Person Spoken To: \_\_\_\_\_

Context: \_\_\_\_\_

Significance: \_\_\_\_\_

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