

Summer Assignment

Grades 9-12

The Say/Mean/Matter format is a way to identify relevant quotes, translate their meanings, and provide an analysis of how this quote serves the overall theme and “big ideas” of the work.

Your summer assignment is to select 20 quotes from your assigned book (Honors, that means 40 **total** because you are reading two books) that are compelling or relevant in the way they serve the theme. Provided is an example of a Say/Mean/Matter breakdown. Please take note of all the pieces required.

Please note: This is a mandatory assignment due the first day of school. Each teacher will use it as they see fit. Feel free to type or print your work, but please make sure it is legible. It is better to try to complete this assignment, even if you don’t “get it.” Something is always better than nothing.

<p style="text-align: center;">Say</p> <p>The quote itself. Copy it exactly and in full. Include the page number.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Mean</p> <p>Explains the scene (i.e. who is speaking and to whom). Show your understanding. What does this quote show in terms of the meaning of the plot.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Matter</p> <p>Analyze the quote in terms of the themes. Why is it vital to the novel?</p> <p>Note any stylistic devices (similes, metaphors, personification, symbols, alliteration, etc.), What connections do you see between this quote and other quotes in the novel?</p>
<p>Quote: “Marin, under the streetlight, dancing by herself, is singing the same song somewhere. I know. Is waiting for a car to stop, a star to fall, someone to change her life” (27).</p>	<p>Esperanza’s says this as she watches Marin on her porch at night. Esperanza understands that Marin believes her life will change when someone enters her life. That someone can only be a man. Marin knows she can use her beauty to get out of the trap that is Mango Street. Esperanza says that she “knows” what it is to dream of changing her life and escaping Mango Street. But while Marin is stuck, “singing the same song, Esperanza would like to <i>make</i> change happen, not just wait for “someone to change her life.”</p>	<p>The classic falling star that one wishes upon symbolizes Marin’s dependency on something outside herself to bring change. Like most of the women on Mango Street - Sally, Rafaela, Minerva – Marin represents a hopeful yet hopeless cycle of poverty, violence, and despair. All are trapped in relationships and circumstances they want desperately to but can’t escape.</p> <p>But Esperanza is more than just an observer of this scene. She clearly “knows” the longing and despair of the women of Mango Street. She verbalizes the dream, beautifully expressed in the sleepy alliteration of “singing the same song somewhere.” But because Esperanza can see and report the situation, she sets herself apart from the hopelessness and despair that affects so many women in this novel. She will not wait for a man, for change to happen, she will create a life on her own terms.</p>