

Sandra Cisneros

Sandra is a Latina writer who grew up in Chicago, travelled the world, lived in San Antonio and retired in Mexico.

<https://www.sandracisneros.com/mylifeandwork> Her official website. The author talks about her life and writing.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kXPXxxCWEW8> PBS News Hour interview with Jeffery Brown. She discusses the process of becoming a writer, “mothering a book.” She talks of her family heritage in both Mexico and Chicago.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=txPT4mr6v1I> Talk on Day of the Dead, talks about the power of words, both English and Spanish.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0Pyf89VsNmg> YouTube video of Cisneros discussion of *The House on Mango Street* 25th anniversary edition. As an artist she manipulated the pieces and locales which comprise the stories in the book. It is a book about longing.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lgAqhu9U7K0> Discussion and analysis by Course Hero’s Russell Jaffe. The video includes a summary of the plot, characters, symbols, themes, motifs and names in the book.

Allen Say

Many of Allen Say’s books are biographical in nature telling the story of his family’s life in Japan and the United States. His autobiography, *Drawing from Memory* is told in text and pictures, at times looking almost like a graphic novel. From an early age he loved to draw, and at the age of 12 was allowed to go to Tokyo, live on his own, and pursue his dream of studying with a master cartoonist.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=P74W-JbcAjw> Read aloud video of the book, *Grandfather’s Journey* which described his grandfather’s love for Japan and California. Both seemed like home.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=q10FuS_emSM Read aloud video of the book, *Tree of Cranes* which tells of his first Christmas tree. His mother remembered the trees from her childhood in California.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vc1iAGhm-78&list=PLLxDwKxHx1yKGO7HDnCJAzc41i2aEtDeL> Video of Allen Say talking about his autobiography *Drawing from Memory*.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=acoDT965BGA&list=PLLxDwKxHx1yKGO7HDnCJAzc41i2aEtDeL&index=13> Video of Allen Say reading a portion from his book *Drawing from Memory*.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=I18DfQMB8yc&list=PLLxDwKxHx1yKGO7HDnCJAzc41i2aEtDeL&index=2> Video of Allen Say telling about how he began learning from the master cartoonist, Noro Shinpei.

Raina Telgemeier

Telgemeier is a graphic novelist who pulls material for her books from her own life and family. The book for this lesson is actually a guidebook for young writers using excerpts from her books.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=o4JI1F8Z5F4> This is a video trailer for several of her books.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PUqzHn2sKBI> Raina's presentation for the 2012 National Book Festival sponsored by the National Library of Congress. She talks briefly about the book *Smiles* at the beginning, and then starting at 31:30 she answers a question about whether everything is absolutely true. She then talks about why comic strips and graphic novels became important to her.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nqInxRwTNI4> Presentation at the 2019 National Book Festival. A couple of minutes into the video she shares how to pronounce her German last name. At 4:15 she give three pieces of advice: read books, talk to people, and share your story. She continues to elaborate on each piece.

Raina has spoken at several National Book Festivals, and they can be accessed online.