



Sandra Cisneros starting writing when she was just 10 years old! She grew up in Chicago, Illinois with six brothers. Sandra writes about growing up in the United States as a Mexican American.

Sandra writes books, short stories, and poems. One important part of her work is that she uses regular moments and experiences from every day as her focus. These moments make her who she is.



Let's try writing like Sandra!

1

Read the copy you have of Sandra's work titled *My Name*. You can read it by yourself or with someone else (a friend, someone in your family, a teacher at school). Try reading it out loud to get a feel for her words!

2

What did you notice about *A Rice Sandwich*?
How does the character, Esperanza, feel about her name?
What makes you think that?



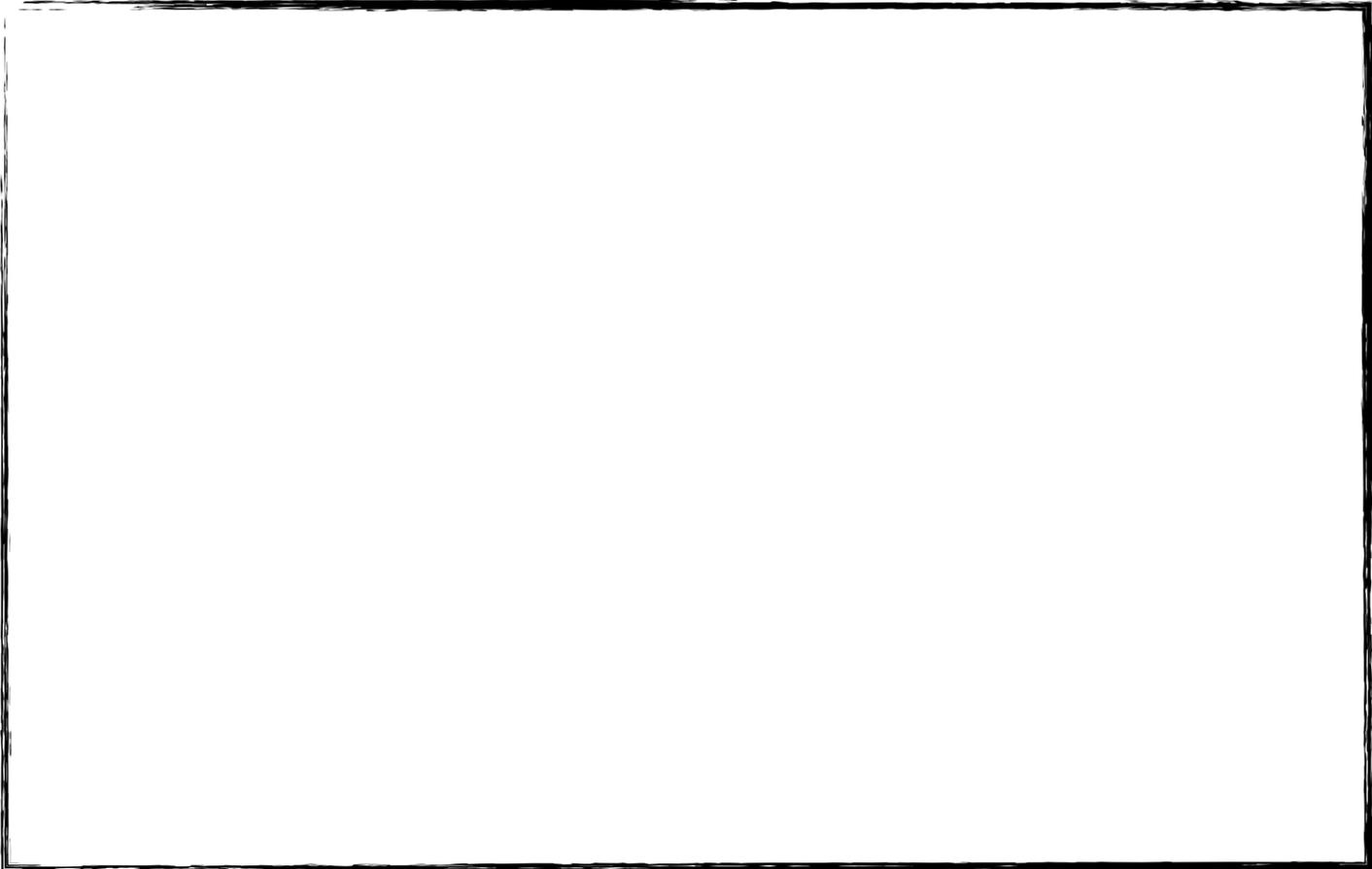
3

In *A Rice Sandwich*, we learn about Esperanza, the narrator. She shares moments that teach her something about herself. These were ordinary, regular, everyday events like wanting to eat lunch in a special place at school. But the moment was meaningful. That means it was special or that it stood out.

Think about about a time when something important happened to you and you learned something about yourself. Who was there? What happened? Where did it happen? How did you feel? What did you learn?

4

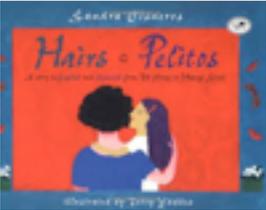
Use the space on the next page to draw a picture or write some quick notes about the moment you learned something about yourself. Remember! It can be a small moment, an ordinary event just like Sandra's examples.



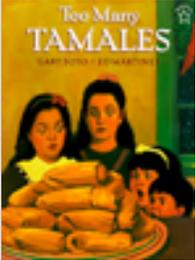
5

Now that you have an idea about the image of your moment, write a short story like *A Rice Sandwich* to retell the experience. Write the story from your point of view using I and use lots of details!

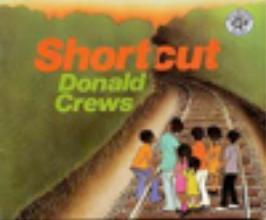
Cut along the dotted line and take the portion below to your school or public library. Ask the librarian to help you find these books that connect to your writing project!



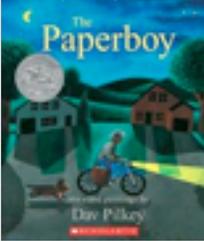
Hairs/Pelitos
Sandra Cisneros



Too Many Tamales
Gary Soto



Shortcut
Donald Crews



The Paperboy
Dav Pilkey