

2016

## The Innocence of Being a Girl

Amy Núñez  
*Humboldt State University*

Follow this and additional works at: <http://digitalcommons.humboldt.edu/courageouscuentos>

 Part of the [Bilingual, Multilingual, and Multicultural Education Commons](#), [Chicana/o Studies Commons](#), [Civic and Community Engagement Commons](#), [Community-Based Learning Commons](#), [Creative Writing Commons](#), [Curriculum and Instruction Commons](#), [Domestic and Intimate Partner Violence Commons](#), [Educational Sociology Commons](#), [Ethnic Studies Commons](#), [Feminist, Gender, and Sexuality Studies Commons](#), [Gender and Sexuality Commons](#), [History Commons](#), [Inequality and Stratification Commons](#), [Latin American Languages and Societies Commons](#), [Latina/o Studies Commons](#), [Modern Literature Commons](#), [Politics and Social Change Commons](#), [Race and Ethnicity Commons](#), [Reading and Language Commons](#), and the [Theory, Knowledge and Science Commons](#)

---

### Recommended Citation

Núñez, Amy (2016) "The Innocence of Being a Girl," *CouRaGeouS Cuentos: A Journal of Counternarratives*: Vol. 1, Article 18.  
Available at: <http://digitalcommons.humboldt.edu/courageouscuentos/vol1/iss1/18>



This work is licensed under a [Creative Commons Attribution-Noncommercial 4.0 License](#)

© 2016 Department of Critical Race, Gender & Sexuality Studies (CRGS) at Humboldt State University.

This Counternarratives and Reflections is brought to you for free and open access by Digital Commons @ Humboldt State University. It has been accepted for inclusion in CouRaGeouS Cuentos: A Journal of Counternarratives by an authorized administrator of Digital Commons @ Humboldt State University. For more information, please contact [kyle.morgan@humboldt.edu](mailto:kyle.morgan@humboldt.edu).

# The Innocence of Being a Girl

---

## Amy Núñez

A story from the book *The House On Mango Street*, by Sandra Cisneros called “The Family of Little Feet” connected with my childhood. This story tells about how the girls receive shoes from a family who did not want them anymore. There is a pair of high-heels that the girls were fascinated with. They wore them and pretended to be grown-ups. The innocence of being a girl took over and they felt pretty and really happy.

I remember wearing my mother’s high-heel shoes. As a little girl, I was and still am a curious person. My mother had so many pairs of high-heels and all were different colors. I would wear them and my mom would be yelling, “¡Quítatelos que me los vas a enchuecar! ¡Te vas a lastimar!” I did not listen. I did it so many times. As a girl, we do these things because we want to be pretty like our mother or we want to be like those superstars who dress up, wear the makeup, do their hair, and wear those high heels!

We want to be beautiful! As children, girls are given the make-up set, dresses, jewelry, and the dolls. It’s like we are put on the path. What I do not like is how, in doing this, we are blamed for being provocative! In the story, a bum complimented the young girl and asked her if he gave her a dollar, would she kiss him. Men take advantage of females because society has portrayed us as objects; moreover, we are being blamed when we are being victims. We are not asking or looking for it. We do it for ourselves to feel good, pretty, and happy.

Society is to be blamed for sexualizing women’s bodies in the media and making men feel that they have power over women. Therefore, women themselves are often reduced to those bodies or even just parts of them. The media has pervasive, idealized images of feminine beauty that is fanciful. Fashion is changing and so people need to be more open-minded and accepting because it is not women’s fault! Girls should be able to express

themselves and the way we dress shouldn't affect us. The innocence of girls is abused and we are victimized. A girl's beauty should be respected no matter the age, size, and race. Beauty should not be a harm or danger for any girl.

## **Reflection**

I never realized how writing these journals in the beginning of class for ten minutes would be impactful. When I say impactful, I mean it in the sense that I'm glad we were able to do this. The prompts that were related to the books we read such as *The House on Mango Street*, *Bless Me*, *Ultima*, and *Under the Feet of Jesus* made me see that there was a connection I was able to make with the stories. Through writing these journals I was able to express myself and realize that every one of us can be a writer when we let go of everything else and let your mind just focus on writing.

When I focused on writing the journals, I wrote about real events, thoughts, feelings, and ideas that came from my life. It was a way for me to be opened-up about my life. For some of the prompts it was a way to take this weight off my shoulders, even if it was just writing and no one would be able to know unless I wanted to share in class. I realize that when I'm writing for ten minutes my imagination goes wild. I try to get it all done in ten minutes. It's not a competition, but I want to be able to finish the journal so that the story I make has all the ideas before I lose my thoughts.

Writing these journals has helped me create these stories by using more similes, metaphors, onomatopoeias, and more to be very descriptive and go into detail. To be honest, this is my weak spot when writing in essays or in general. So it has helped me practice and focus on these literary devices. Writing has made it easier for me to practice on these devices. When I am able to relate to the prompt I can go on my own way without following many rules and directions. Writing has also been a sort of therapy because I can relieve my expressions by creating these short stories in ten minutes. These journals had made me believe in myself, that I can be a writer and that practice will help me express myself by going into more detail and using more of the literary devices. It's been an experience that was much needed because I am now able to be creative and descriptive without having such a hard time like I used to before.