

Book Reminder!

This page will help you review the books you read, so you can remember the details. The more specific you are when you fill out this form, the more helpful it will be.

Title: *Esperanza Rising*

Author: Pam Munoz Ryan

Setting(s): a ranch in Aguascalientes, Mexico in 1924 & 1930; on a wagon & train from Mexico to Los Angeles; Mexican work camp in southern CA (farm)

What is the main conflict/problem in the story and how is it solved? When Esperanza's father is killed, she and her mother lose their home, wealth, and security, and must flee Mexico to the US, where they must work as farm laborers to support themselves. Esperanza has difficulty accepting these changes in her circumstances.

List names of characters and describe them (physical characteristics, special behaviors, likes/dislikes, age/grade, jobs -for adults, relationship to main character, etc.):

Esperanza	Only child; wealthy; 13; loves grape harvest season b/c her birthday is right after; snobbish, selfish (won't share doll); religious
Abuelita	Came to Mexico from Spain as a child; teaches Esperanza how to crochet; looks distinguished; white hair in bun; black dress with lace handkerchief and gold loop earrings; philosophical sayings; quotes poetry to birds; walks barefoot in grapes
Papa	Wealthy rancher; loves the land (can hear its heart beat); gives Esperanza porcelain doll for every birthday; leaves house to Mama & Esperanza, but land to Luis when he is killed while mending fence on ranch; kept his promises
Mama	Elegant and refined; realist; not snobbish; considerate (makes yarn doll for girl on train); religious; becomes sick and depressed;
Uncle Luis	Runs the bank; wants to run for governor; asks Mama to marry him; threatens to send Esperanza to boarding school; greedy; sets fire to house; tall & skinny; thin moustache; small white beard; followed around by Uncle Marco (Mayor); look like underfed billy goats; love money & power more than people
Hortensia	Wife of Alfonso; housekeeper; Zapotec Indian, short, stout, long black braid
Alfonso	In charge of the field workers at Rancho de las Rosas; wife is Hortensia; son is Miguel; loves the land; has brother in US; short; dark; droopy moustache;
Miguel	Son of Alfonso & Hortensia; 16; taller than parents; good at fixing things; quiet & patient; fascinated by trains, wants to work for rr;
Juan & Josefina	Alfonso's brother and his wife;
Isabel	Juan & Josefina's daughter; 8; delicate, frail, looks like deer; 3 rd grade straight As; wants to be Queen of the May; loves peaches;
Lupe & Pepe	1-year-old twins, boy and girl; children of Juan & Josefina; dark hair & eyes; love Esp.
Marta	~16, dark, curly hair; sharp, pointy features; father died in Mexican revolution; thinks workers should join together for better conditions;

List some of the significant events: Esp. pricks thumb on rose thorn – bad luck; Papa killed; Tio Luis proposes to Mama then burns house; Abuelita hurts ankle; Esp. Miguel, Hort., Alf. & Mama sneak away at night, hidden under floor of a guava wagon to train at Zacatecas; when hiding from robbers, Miguel prevented them from being discovered by releasing a mouse; Esp. doesn't want to ride with peasants on train; Mama makes friends with Carmen of the chickens on train; they wait in long immigration line at border; live in a two-room cabin (like horse stall) with Juan's family; Esp. must watch babies and sweep platform; Esp. has to learn to change diapers and wash laundry and sweep (is called Cinderella); Miguel & Alfonso plant Papa's roses in CA; Isabel gets orange kitten; Esp. feeds twins raw plums; dust storm comes and Mama gets Valley Fever; Esp. works cutting potato eyes; Mexican workers caught between others who want to strike and fear of immigration sending them back to Mexico; goes to hospital on Christmas day (gives Mama a stone); Go to Mr. Yakota's market; Miguel gets job in rr machine shop then loses it to Okies and must dig ditches; strikers are deported and Marta hides; gives doll to Isabel; Miguel disappears; Miguel takes money orders brings Abuelita; Esp. teaches Isabel to crochet

Write any quotes or sayings that seem important or that a character repeats often: Miguel calls Esperanza "Mi Reina. My Queen" ___ Abuelita says "There is no rose without thorns" "Full bellies and Spanish blood go hand in hand" in Mexico "Wait a little while and the fruit will fall into your hand" (be patient) "Ten stitches up to the top of the mountain"