

Student Packet

Grades 7–8

# Esperanza Rising

Pam Muñoz Ryan

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# ESPERANZA RISING

by  
Pam Muñoz Ryan

## Student Packet

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**Contains masters for:**

3	Prereading Activities
9	Vocabulary Activities
1	Study Guide (6 pages)
6	Literary Analysis Activities
2	Writing Activities
2	Comprehension Quizzes
1	Novel Test (3 pages)

**PLUS**

	Detailed Answer Key
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### Note

The Scholastic Press hardback edition of the book, published by Scholastic, Inc., ©2000 was used to prepare this guide. The page references may differ in other editions.

**Please note:** Please assess the appropriateness of this book for the age level and maturity of your students prior to reading and discussing it with your class.

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Name \_\_\_\_\_

6. To whom does Esperanza give the piñata?
7. What does Esperanza see differently about Miguel when he talks about his new job?

### **Los Espárragos, pp. 199-213**

1. What does one striker throw at one of the workers?
2. How does the company protect the workers?
3. What does the supervisor do to the rattlesnake?
4. What happens to the striker who claims to be a citizen and has the papers to prove it?
5. Who is hiding behind the boxes?
6. What animal is left behind at the strikers' farm?
7. What does Esperanza spy in a tree?

### **Los Durazos, pp. 214-233**

1. What is Isabel praying for?
2. What does Esperanza wish she could give to Isabel?
3. What does Isabel believe is the basis for choosing the queen?
4. When he is recruited as a mechanic for the railroad, what job does Miguel get?
5. When Esperanza learns of the Oklahoma camp, where does she run?
6. What does Esperanza tell Miguel that he should do?
7. What does Miguel say Esperanza thinks she is?
8. What does Esperanza give Isabel on the day she is not chosen queen?
9. What news does Esperanza hear from the doctor?
10. What does Esperanza look for in her valise?

### **Las Uvas, pp. 234-252**

1. Where is Miguel coming from to arrive in Bakersfield?
2. What does Miguel bring to prove that things will get better?
3. What does Abuelita smell like?
4. What does Esperanza weave into the blanket?

Name \_\_\_\_\_

5. Instead of seasons, what does Esperanza use as time dividers when telling Abuelita all that has happened to them?
6. What sentence that Papa used to say does Esperanza tell Miguel on the plateau?
7. What are the dreams Esperanza anticipates as she soars?
8. Who sings the birthday song outside Esperanza's window?
9. What does Esperanza teach Isabel?
10. When she is unraveling the stitches, what does Esperanza tell Isabel?

Student  
Worksheets

Name \_\_\_\_\_

- |                 |                   |                    |                  |
|-----------------|-------------------|--------------------|------------------|
| arbors (1)      | tendril (1)       | scythe (4)         | vicious (8)      |
| premonition (9) | serenaded (9)     | congregate (9)     | porcelain (9)    |
| adobe (10)      | crochet (12)      | distinguished (13) | nape (13)        |
| capricious (13) | propriety (13)    | philosophical (13) | resurrected (16) |
| dwindled (21)   | transforming (21) | candelabra (21)    |                  |

**Directions:** Match each definition below to the correct word from the vocabulary list above.

1. \_\_\_\_\_: being proper
2. \_\_\_\_\_: a tool used for cutting
3. \_\_\_\_\_: branches, candlesticks
4. \_\_\_\_\_: fine translucent pottery with a transparent glaze
5. \_\_\_\_\_: to flock together into a crowd
6. \_\_\_\_\_: sun dried clay bricks used in building
7. \_\_\_\_\_: calm, reasonable
8. \_\_\_\_\_: acting with evil intentions
9. \_\_\_\_\_: the back part of the neck
10. \_\_\_\_\_: a feeling that something is about to happen



Name \_\_\_\_\_

*Esperanza Rising*  
Activity #8 • Vocabulary  
Las Ciruelas, pp. 139–157

- |                 |                   |                 |                  |
|-----------------|-------------------|-----------------|------------------|
| concerns (139)  | frantically (145) | peculiar (146)  | roil (147)       |
| encrusted (151) | spasm (151)       | suede (152)     | regimented (153) |
| bustling (153)  | contagious (156)  | immunized (156) |                  |

**Directions:** Chose a word from the vocabulary list. Turn to the page on which it is used in the text. After examining how the word is used in context, complete the word map.

<p><b>synonyms</b></p> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/>	<p>magazine cut out, drawing, or photograph that shows what the word means</p>
<p><b>word</b></p> <hr/>	
<p><b>definition in your own words</b></p> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/>	<p><b>word used in a sentence</b></p> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/>

Name \_\_\_\_\_

### Understanding Immigrants and Values

Pam Muñoz Ryan, author of *Esperanza Rising*, said in an interview, “I had heard many stories about the camps from my grandmother when she was alive, but I began this book many years after she died, so of course when I started writing, I had many detailed questions which needed answers. Did they have electricity in the cabins? Were the cabins wood and plaster or just wood walls? Did they use gas stoves or wood stoves? How many rooms did the cabins have?” Ryan interviewed people to find the answers to her questions so her information in *Esperanza Rising* was accurate. She also found it hard to present both sides of the issue of workers striking for better wages. Again, she interviewed people to discover both sides.

Describe what you have learned about the immigrants in California in the 1930s. What values of the immigrants are the same as your own? different from your own?

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