Name: _____

Use with the book:
Esperanza Rising by Pam Muñoz Ryan

Esperanza Rising

Whole Book Questions



1. How is Esperanza characterized at the beginning of the novel?

- **a.** poor and hardworking
- **b.** confident and rebellious
- **c.** wealthy, privileged, and sheltered
- **d.** hardworking and sheltered

2. Why is Papa's death such an important turning point in Esperanza's life? Use specific examples from the novel to support your answer.

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4. What is one major difference between Esperanza's life in Mexico and her life in California?

_____

_____

_____

5. Explain how moving to California changes Esperanza's understanding of poverty and social class. Use specific examples from the text to support your answer.

_____

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Name: _____

Use with the book:
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Esperanza Rising

Whole Book Questions



6. Read the quote below and then answer the question.

> *"Abuelita nodded and said thoughtfully,* 'No hay rosa sin espinas. *There is no rose without thorns.'"*

What do you think Abuelita meant? Give at least two examples from the book that support Abuelita's quote.

meaning - _____

_____

example #1 - _____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

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> *"'This is what we are!' she yelled. 'Small, meek animals. And that is how they treat us because we don't speak up. If we don't ask for what is rightfully ours, we will never get it! Is this how we want to live?'"*

What does this quote reveal about Marta's beliefs?

a. She believes workers should accept their situation without complaining.
b. She believes workers should stand up for themselves and demand fair treatment.
c. She believes wealthy landowners should have more power over workers.
d. She believes workers should leave California rather than protest.

8. Why does Esperanza have difficulty understanding Marta's point of view at first?

a. Esperanza has never experienced the difficult conditions faced by migrant workers.
b. Esperanza does not speak Spanish.
c. Marta refuses to explain her beliefs.
d. Marta was rude to Esperanza, and Esperanza couldn't forgive her.

Name: _____

Use with the book:
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Esperanza Rising

Whole Book Questions



9. How does Marta help Esperanza grow as a character?

- **a.** She teaches Esperanza to become more competitive.
- **b.** She forces Esperanza to think about the struggles of less privileged people.
- **c.** She convinces Esperanza to leave California.
- **d.** She convinces Esperanza to stop working and find a better job.

10. What does Esperanza's relationship with Miguel demonstrate?

- **a.** Social class never affects relationships.
- **b.** People from different backgrounds can form strong relationships.
- **c.** Esperanza likes everyone who works on the farm.
- **d.** She does not need her family.

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12. Explain the significance of the crocheted blanket in the novel.

_____

_____

_____

_____

13. Which theme is most important in *Esperanza Rising*?

- **a.** the importance of becoming famous
- **b.** the importance of persevering during difficult times
- **c.** the dangers of traveling
- **d.** the value of competition

Name: _____

Use with the book:
Esperanza Rising by Pam Muñoz Ryan

Esperanza Rising

Whole Book Questions

14. What does the title *Esperanza Rising* mean? Explain at least two possible meanings of the word "rising" in relation to Esperanza.

_____

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Use with the book:
Esperanza Rising by Pam Muñoz Ryan

ANSWER KEY

Esperanza Rising

Whole Book Questions



1. How is Esperanza characterized at the beginning of the novel?

a. poor and hardworking
b. confident and rebellious
c. wealthy, privileged, and sheltered
d. hardworking and sheltered

2. Why is Papa's death such an [illegible] Esperanza's life?
Use specific examples fr[illegible]

Answers may vary. [illegible] Papa's death cha[illegible]'s life dramatically.
She lost her sec[illegible]had to leave Mexico with Mam[illegible] a new life in
California.

3. [illegible]

4. What is one major [illegible] between Esperanza's life in M[illegible] life in California?

Answers will vary. An[illegible] and privileged.
She has everything she wa[illegible] ave nothing. They have
to work hard and rely on others for [illegible].

5. Explain how moving to California changes Esperanza's understanding of poverty and social class. Use specific examples from the text to support your answer.

Answers will vary.

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Use with the book:
Esperanza Rising by Pam Muñoz Ryan

ANSWER KEY

Esperanza Rising

Whole Book Questions



6. Read the quote below and then answer the question.

> *"Abuelita nodded and said thoughtfully,* 'No hay rosa sin espinas. *There is no rose without thorns.'"*

What do you think Abuelita meant? Give two examples from the book that support Abuelita's meaning - Answers will vary but must support the meaning that it is possible to deal with hardships.

example #1 - Answers will vary but must support the meaning

example #2 - Answers will vary but must support the meaning

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> *"'This is what I mean,' he yelled. 'Small, meek animals. And that's why they treat us because we don't stand up. If we don't ask for what is right, we will never get it! Is this how you live?'"*

What does this quote reveal about Marta's beliefs?

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Use with the book:
Esperanza Rising by Pam Muñoz Ryan

ANSWER KEY

Esperanza Rising

Whole Book Questions



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a. She teaches Esperanza to become more competitive.

b. She forces Esperanza to think about the struggles of less privileged people.

c. She convinces Esperanza to leave California.

d. She convinces Esperanza [illegible] a better job.

10. What does Esperanza [illegible] relationship with Miguel demonstrate?

a. Social class [illegible] relationships.

b. People from different backgrounds can form strong relationships.

c. Esperanza [illegible] everyone who works on the farm.

d. She [illegible] does not need her family.

12. Explain the significance of the crocheted blanket in the novel.

Answers will vary. One possible answer is: Abuelita tells Esperanza that the pattern of the blanket is made up of mountains and valleys throughout the novel Esperanza and Mama face many different mountains and valleys as they travel.

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a. the importance of becoming famous

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Esperanza Rising

Whole Book Questions

14. What does the title *Esperanza Rising* mean? Explain at least two possible meanings of the word "rising" in relation to Esperanza.

Answers will vary.

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