

Esperanza Rising

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Collaborative Planning

Group activities

- Gain a background perspective through library books and materials
- Read and research materials to get a better understanding of the setting and story references
- Practice information literacy skills through citations and research

Library Pathfinder

<https://edu.glogster.com/glog/esperanza-rising-pathfinder/2uivwo7o2jx>

Summary of Esperanza Rising

The Beginning

- Daughter of a wealthy landowner in Mexico where they grows grapes
- Esperanza is cherished, spoiled and pampered
- Father is killed by bandits, uncle gives ultimatum
- Mother refuses marriage, uncle burns down the house
- Abuelita is injured
- Mama, Esperanza and employees escape Mexico with employees
- Abuelita goes to stay with sisters until she can join her family

Summary of Esperanza Rising

The Journey

- Alfonso, Hortensia, and Miguel will travel to the U.S. for a new job and home. Esperanza and her mother travel with them, but secretly. The new country is similar but Esperanza will need to work. She remembers her Papa's words, to feel the earth's heartbeat. In the new country, she does not hear the earth's heartbeat, "only the prickly sound of dry grass (p.91)."
- Other journeys: to visit her mother when she is sick, to find out what happened to the people living in Marta's camp who protested bad working conditions for farmworkers, and a journey across a metaphorical river that separates landowners from campesinos.
- To take Miguel to listen to the earth's heartbeat [this time she heard it!]. "A gentle thumping, repeating itself. Then stronger ... the earth's heartbeat."

Summary of Esperanza Rising

California

- When Esperanza first reaches California she listens for the earth's heartbeat and hears nothing. She is tearful. She rolls from on her back to see the "vast sky in dizzying swirls of blue and white." She imagines herself "floating and drifting upward." "She lifted higher and part of her liked the sensation but another part of her felt untethered and frightened. She tried to find the place in her heart where her life was anchored, but she couldn't ... (p.92)."
- At the end of the story, it happens again as she lay down on the cool, dry grass. This time, "As the sun rose, Esperanza began to feel as if she rose with it. Floating again, like that day on the mountain, when she first arrived in the valley. She closed her eyes, and this time she did not careen out of control. Instead, sheglided above the earth, unafraid (p.249-250)."

Summary of Esperanza Rising

The end

- Esperanza knows that she has “her family, a garden full of roses, her faith, and the memories of those who had gone before her (p.250).”
- “She soared with the anticipation of dreams she never knew she could have, of learning English, of supporting her family, of someday buying a tiny house (p.250).”
- This time her floating, flying takes her across the valley, waving to people she knows and to a wild area where she sees “a girl in a blue silk dress and a boy with his hair slicked down, eating mangoes on a stick, carved to look like exotic flowers, sitting on a grassy bank, on the same side of the river (p.251).”

Signposts

- Contrasts and Contradictions
- Aha Moments
- Tough Questions
- Words of the Wiser
- Again and Again

Archetypes

- Heroes – Esperanza (travels to a new place; her quest to use her gifts inside herself and to change and grow)
- Antihero – Miguel (travels with Esperanza's savings to bring Abuelita from Mexico)
- Wise Person – Abuelito (Do not be afraid to start over)

Themes

- Loss and Grieving
- Immigration
- Family
- Cultural Identification
- Equality and Labor

Passages of Note

- “You can only feel the earth’s heartbeat when you are still and quiet” (pg.2)
- “Wait a little while and the fruit will fall into your hand.” (pg.2)
- “....we stand on different sides of the river.” (pg.37)
- “There is no rose without thorns.” (pg.14)
- “Don’t be afraid to start over.” (pg.49)
- “I am poor, but I am rich.” (pg.76)
- “Those with the fairest complexions of the Spanish are the wealthiest.” (pg.79)
- The rich take care of themselves, the poor take care of those who have less than they have

Symbols

- Roses-family, history
- Grapes-patience, perseverance
- Papaya-wealth, celebration
- Guava-
- The China doll-childhood, innocence
- Crocheted blanket-connection, journeys, healing

Immigrants...We Get the Job Done

- <https://youtu.be/giYPiABToSo>