

Esperanza Rising Study Sheet

1. Esperanza The main character of the novel.
2. Miguel Esperanza's friend and eventual love interest.
3. Abuelita Esperanza's grandmother who stays behind in Mexico.
4. Mama Esperanza's mother who becomes ill.
5. Papa Esperanza's father who dies at the beginning of the story.
6. Tio Luis The antagonist who wants to marry Mama.
7. El Rancho de las Rosas The name of Esperanza's family ranch in Mexico.
8. California The U.S. state where Esperanza and her mother move.
9. grapes The fruit associated with Esperanza's wealthy life in Mexico.
10. immigration The process Esperanza and her mother undergo to enter the U.S.
11. Marta A girl who is involved in the farm workers' strikes.
12. Isabel The young girl who becomes Esperanza's friend in California.
13. Alfonso Miguel's father who helps the family move to the U.S.
14. Hortensia Miguel's mother who works for Esperanza's family.
15. rose The symbol of Esperanza's old life and heritage.
16. river The metaphorical divide between Esperanza's past and present lives.
17. train The mode of transportation Esperanza and her mother take to the U.S.
18. dust storm A natural disaster that affects the workers' camp.
19. blanket The item Esperanza weaves that symbolizes her connection to her grandmother.
20. strike The action taken by farm workers to demand better conditions.
21. avocados The fruit grown at the farm where Esperanza works.
22. valley fever The illness Mama contracts after the dust storm.
23. zigzag The pattern Esperanza weaves into the blanket, symbolizing life's ups and downs.
24. hope The English translation of Esperanza's name and a central theme in the novel.