



# Esperanza Rising

## Discussion Guide #3



Encourage critical thinking and support your students' literacy development by asking questions during reading. Here are some questions you can ask your readers to engage them in a discussion.

---

### CHAPTERS: Las Ciruelas (Plums) – Las Papas (Potatoes)

---


#### Comprehension:

- What happens during Esperanza's first day taking care of the babies on her own?
- How does the dust storm affect Esperanza, the workers in the sheds and fields, and the strikers?
- Why doesn't Mama want to call a doctor?
- Mama gets Valley Fever. What is that? What causes it, and how does the news affect Esperanza?
- What does Esperanza believe Mama needs in order to get well?
- Why does Esperanza want to work?
- Marta's aunt talks to the women about repatriation. What is this?
- As Esperanza reminisces about past Christmases, what does she realize?

#### Text Analysis:

- Mama asks for Abuelita's blanket. How is this moment significant?
- Esperanza and Isabel make many yarn dolls together. What realization does Esperanza have watching Isabel with the dolls? What do the yarn dolls represent for Esperanza?
- At the end of "Las Papas," Esperanza tells Mama that she will be *la patrona* for the family now. What is the significance of this statement?

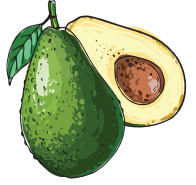
#### Personal Connection:

-  With Mama ill, Esperanza must begin acting as the head of her family. Think of a time when you took on a new responsibility. How did that make you feel? What did you like and dislike about it?



# Esperanza Rising

## Discussion Guide #3



Encourage critical thinking and support your students' literacy development by asking questions during reading. Here are some questions you can ask your readers to engage them in a discussion.

---

### CHAPTERS: Los Aguacates (Avocados) – Los Espárragos (Asparagus)

---


#### Comprehension:

- Why does Esperanza put avocado on her hands? Why does she fix her mother's hair in the hospital? How are these two gestures similar?
- What does Miguel tell Esperanza about how Mexicans are thought of and treated?
- What does it mean when Miguel says that Mr. Yakota "is getting rich on other people's bad manners"?
- How does meeting Marta with her mother change Esperanza's feelings about Marta?
- What does Esperanza do when she sees the hungry family at the strikers' camp?
- What does Marta tell Miguel and Esperanza about the strikers' plans?
- What motivates Esperanza to help Marta during the immigration sweep?
- Why do the police and immigration officials round up only the strikers and not Esperanza and the other women who are working?

#### Text Analysis:

- Different people in Esperanza's camp respond to the strike in various ways. Choose two characters with different reactions. What are their responses to the strike?
- Why does the author describe the piñata after the strikers' camp is raided?

#### Personal Connection:

-  Think about Marta's arguments for a strike, and those of Esperanza and the people in her camp against striking. Would you strike? Why or why not?