

Reading For Comprehension Series
By Lee Ann Berg

Esperanza Rising

By Pam Munoz Ryan

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Reading Level 4.0

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Teacher's Guide

Please note: The first number in parenthesis following a vocabulary word indicates the approximate grade level at which the student should know the definition of the word while the following number indicates the page on which the word was found. (Word grade placement is per *EDL Core Vocabularies in Reading, Mathematics, Science and Social Studies, 1989.*)

The page number of a vocabulary word or the range of page numbers may not correspond to the published text of the book you are using. If that is the case, you will find the vocabulary word and/or the basis for the comprehension questions and answers on pages that are approximately the same as those used in creating this study guide.

And the answers to the comprehension questions are not always written in complete sentences. The answers have sometimes been made in shortened phrases which make the answers easier to find as well as limiting the space needed to give the answers.

Prediction: What do you know about the Great Depression of the 1930's in the United States? When did it take place? How did it affect the lives of people in the U. S.? You will read a story about how it affected one family and a group of people in California.

Aguascalientes, Mexico 1924 Pp. 1-3

Prediction: Find Aguascalientes on a map of Mexico.

Vocabulary List with Definitions (grade appropriate #, page where word is found)

tendrils (, 1) coiling organ by which climbing plants attach themselves for a support

Comprehension Questions

- 1. How old was Esperanza in 1924? P. 1** She was six years old.
- 2. Why did Papa and Esperanza lay down on the ground on their stomachs? P. 2**
Papa wanted Esperanza to feel the Earth's heartbeat with him. He wanted to instill a love for the land that he owned so she would love the land also.
- 3. How did Esperanza let Papa know she felt the heartbeat of the Earth? P. 3**
She smiled at Papa, and he smiled back at her. He had received her quiet message.

Las Uvas Grapes Six Years Later Pp. 4-22

Prediction: How old was Esperanza when this chapter began? ($6+6 = 12$ years old)
What year was it? (1930)

Vocabulary List with Definitions (grade appropriate #, page where word is found)

scythe (4, 4) an implement used for mowing by hand

elegant (4, 5) refined gracefulness, tasteful richness

arbors (, 5) shelter formed of or covered by vines or branches

vicious (5, 8) wicked, depraved; malicious, spiteful

premonition (11, 9) previous warning

vaqueros (, 9) a ranch hand, a cowboy

serenaded (8, 9) music sung or played as a compliment especially outdoors at night

porcelain (6, 9) a fine-grained translucent ceramic ware

camisoles (, 10) a short sleeveless garment for women

precisely (8, 11) highly accurate, exact; definite

capricious (13, 13) a sudden whim or fancy; an inclination to do things impulsively

propriety (11, 13) the standard of what is socially acceptable in conduct or speech

philosophical (11, 13) a critical study of the fundamental beliefs

resurrected (11, 16) to bring to attention or use again

taunting (8, 17) a sarcastic challenge or insult

distracted (6, 18) to draw the attention to a different object, divert; confuse

transforming (8, 21) to change in structure, appearance, or character

tormented (6, 22) to cause severe suffering of the mind or body; afflict, torture

despair (6, 22) to lose all hope or confidence

Comprehension Questions

1. **What was Esperanza supposed to do that August day? Pp. 4-5** She was to cut the first heavy cluster of grapes to begin the harvest of Papa's land.
2. **Why, besides it being harvest time, did Esperanza think this was her favorite part of the year? Pp. 6-7** Right after harvest was her birthday. There would be a fiesta for harvest and her birthday. She would see her friends from the neighboring ranches.

3. **Why was Esperanza so uneasy? Pp. 8-9** Papa was late, he was supposed to be home now. She had pricked her finger on a rose thorn, an omen of bad luck.
4. **Why were Esperanza and Mama particularly worried about Papa's late return? Pp. 10-11** The neighbors had warned him about bandits in the area.
5. **Who was Abuelita? Pp. 12-13** Abuelita was Esperanza's grandmother, her mama's mother. She looked distinguished, but was just as at home hosting ladies at tea as at wandering barefoot in the grapes, reading poetry to the birds.
6. **What did Abuelita and Esperanza do as they waited for Papa? Pp. 14-15** They crocheted. Abuelita stitched a fallen strand of hair into the blanket saying her love and good wishes would be in the blanket forever.
7. **Who was Miguel? Pp. 16-17** Miguel was the son of their servant, Hortensia, and Papa's companero, Alfonso. Papa was teaching him how to help manage the ranch. Miguel was 16 years old, and Esperanza said she was going to marry him when she was younger and didn't know their social difference.
8. **Who came to the ranch while they were waiting to hear from Papa? Pp. 18-19** Papa's two older stepbrothers came. Esperanza and Mama did not like them.
9. **What did the stepbrothers bring Mama? Pp. 20-21** They brought Papa's silver belt buckle. Tio Luis gently squeezed Esperanza's shoulder when he passed by her, something he had never done before.
10. **Why did Mama faint? Pp. 22** The vaqueros brought back bad news about Papa.

Student's Guide

Aguascalientes, Mexico 1924 Pp. 1-3

Vocabulary

tendrill (1)

Comprehension Questions

1. How old was Esperanza in 1924? P. 1
2. Why did Papa and Esperanza lay down on the ground on their stomachs? P. 2
3. How did Esperanza let Papa know she felt the heartbeat of the Earth? P. 3

Las Uvas Grapes Six Years Later Pp. 4-22

Vocabulary

scythe (4)

elegant (5)

arbors (5)

vicious (8)

premonition (9)

vaqueros (9)

serenaded (9)

porcelain (9)

camisoles (10)

precisely (11)

capricious (13)

propriety (13)

philosophical (13)

resurrected (16)

taunting (17)

distracted (18)

transforming (21)

tormented (22)

despair (22)

Comprehension Questions

1. What was Esperanza supposed to do that August day? Pp. 4-5
2. Why, besides it being harvest time, did Esperanza think this was her favorite part of the year? Pp. 6-7
3. Why was Esperanza so uneasy? Pp. 8-9
4. Why were Esperanza and Mama particularly worried about Papa's late return? Pp. 10-11

5. Who was Abuelita? Pp. 12-13
6. What did Abuelita and Esperanza do as they waited for Papa? Pp. 14-15
7. Who was Miguel? Pp. 16-17
8. Who came to the ranch while they were waiting to hear from Papa? Pp. 18-19
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10. Why did Mama faint? Pp. 22

Student's Workbook

Aguascalientes, Mexico 1924 Pp. 1-3

Vocabulary

tendril (1) _____

Comprehension Questions

1. How old was Esperanza in 1924? P. 1 _____

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Las Uvas Grapes Six Years Later Pp. 4-22

Vocabulary

premonition (9) _____

precisely (11) _____

resurrected (16) _____

Comprehension Questions

1. Why, besides it being harvest time, did Esperanza think August was her favorite time of the year? Pp. 6-7 _____

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3. Who was Abuelita? Pp. 12-13 _____

4. What did Abuelita and Esperanza do as they waited for Papa? Pp. 14-15 _____

5. Who was Miguel? Pp. 16-17 _____

6. Who came to the ranch while they were waiting to hear from Papa? Pp. 18-19 _____

7. Why did Mama faint? Pp. 22 _____

Las Papayas Papayas Pp. 23-38

Vocabulary

wrenched (23)

anguish (23)

cordial (26)

Comprehension Questions

1. How long did the formal mourning and funeral for Papa last? Pp. 25-26 _____

2. What happened to Papa's estate? Pp. 29-30 _____

3. What did Tio Luis suggest Mama do? Pp. 31-32 _____

4. Why would Abuelita have trouble getting the money she owned? Pp. 33-34 _____

5. Why did Miguel say he and his parents were leaving for the United States?
Pp. 35-36 _____

6. Why did Miguel say to Esperanza that she was right, that in Mexico they stood
on different sides of the river? Pp. 37-38 _____

Teacher's Workbook KEY

Please note: The first number in parenthesis following a vocabulary word indicates the approximate grade level at which the student should know the definition of the word while the following number indicates the page on which the word was found. (Word grade placement is per *EDL Core Vocabularies in Reading, Mathematics, Science and Social Studies, 1989.*)

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Aguascalientes, Mexico 1924 Pp. 1-3

Vocabulary List with Definitions (grade appropriate #, page where word is found)

tendril (, 1) coiling organ by which climbing plants attach themselves for a support

Comprehension Questions

- 1. How old was Esperanza in 1924? P. 1** She was six years old.
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- 3. How did Esperanza let Papa know she felt the heartbeat of the Earth? P. 3**
She smiled at Papa, and he smiled back at her. He had received her quiet message.

Las Uvas Grapes Six Years Later Pp. 4-22

Vocabulary List with Definitions (grade appropriate #, page where word is found)

premonition (11, 9) previous warning

precisely (8, 11) highly accurate, exact; definite

resurrected (11, 16) to bring to attention or use again

Comprehension Questions

- 1. Why, besides it being harvest time, did Esperanza think August was her favorite time of the year? Pp. 6-7** Right after harvest was her birthday. There would be a fiesta for harvest and her birthday. She would see her friends from other ranches.
- 2. Why were Esperanza and Mama particularly worried about Papa's late return? Pp. 10-11** The neighbors had warned him about bandits in the area.
- 3. Who was Abuelita? Pp. 12-13** Abuelita was Esperanza's grandmother, her mama's mother. She looked distinguished, but was a down-to-earth person.
- 4. What did Abuelita and Esperanza do as they waited for Papa? Pp. 14-15** They crocheted. Abuelita stitched a fallen strand of hair into the blanket saying her love and good wishes would be in the blanket forever.
- 5. Who was Miguel? Pp. 16-17** Miguel was the son of their servant, Hortensia, and Papa's companero, Alfonso. Papa was teaching him how to help manage the ranch.
- 6. Who came to the ranch while they were waiting to hear from Papa? Pp. 18-19** Papa's two older stepbrothers came. Esperanza and Mama did not like them.
- 7. Why did Mama faint? Pp. 22** The vaqueros brought back bad news about Papa.

Las Papayas Papayas Pp. 23-38

Vocabulary List with Definitions (grade appropriate #, page where word is found)

wrenched (7, 23) to pull, strain, or tighten with violent twisting or force

anguish (7, 23) extreme pain or distress especially of the mind

cordial (7, 26) warmly receptive and welcoming; heartfelt, hearty

Comprehension Questions

- 1. How long did the formal mourning and funeral for Papa last? Pp. 25-26** The rosaries, masses and funeral lasted 3 days.
- 2. What happened to Papa's estate? Pp. 29-30** The house and its contents went to Mama and Esperanza. The yearly income from the grapes and the land went to Luis, one of the stepbrothers.
- 3. What did Tio Luis suggest Mama do? Pp. 31-32** She should marry him after waiting one year out of respect for Papa. Mama refused, and Luis threatened her.
- 4. Why would Abuelita have trouble getting the money she owned? Pp. 33-34** The money was in Luis's bank, and he would probably prevent her from taking it out.
- 5. Why did Miguel say he and his parents were leaving for the United States? Pp. 35-36** They had been born servants in Mexico. They could never be anything else there. They would have a better chance at a good life in the United States.
- 6. Why did Miguel say to Esperanza that she was right, that in Mexico they stood on different sides of the river? Pp. 37-38** He was telling her that in Mexico he could never be more to her than a servant. They were not equals in Mexico.

Key Questions

Key Questions for Esperanza Rising

By Pam Munoz Ryan

Answer in sentences.

Name _____

1. What did Esperanza think was her favorite time of the year? Pp. 6-7

2. What happened to Papa's estate after he was found murdered? Pp. 29-30

3. Why did Luis and his brother, Marco, come to see Mama after her house burned down? Pp. 43-44

4. What did Esperanza complain to Mama about once they boarded the train? Pp. 66-67

5. How did Juan's family and the five emigrants travel to El Centro? Pp. 87-88

6. What did Esperanza learn about the small cabin where they were to live? Pp. 102-103

Key Questions Answer Key

Key Questions for Esperanza Rising – Answer Key

By Pam Munoz Ryan

Answer in sentences.

Name _____

1. What did Esperanza think was her favorite time of the year? Pp. 6-7

Her favorite time was right after harvest which was her birthday when there would be a fiesta for her birthday and harvest. She would see her friends from neighboring ranches.

2. What happened to Papa's estate after he was found murdered? Pp. 29-30

The house and its contents went to Mama and Esperanza. The yearly income from the grapes and the land went to Luis, one of the stepbrothers.

3. Why did Luis and his brother, Marco, come to see Mama after her house burned down? Pp. 43-44

He came to tell Mama he was willing to marry Mama, or she could live with the servants. He hoped that a tragedy didn't happen to their homes too.

4. What did Esperanza complain to Mama about once they boarded the train? Pp. 66-67

She complained about the people they had to sit with. They were poor people. Esperanza thought she was too good to sit with them. Mama said that it was all they could afford now, to be with the peasants.

5. How did Juan's family and the five emigrants travel to El Centro? Pp. 87-88

They traveled in an old jalopy, a rickety truck. They also traveled with the two red hens Mama was given.

6. What did Esperanza learn about the small cabin where they were to live? Pp. 102-103

She and Mama wouldn't have a separate cabin. Only a male head of a household got a separate cabin to live in. They were to say they were Alfonso's cousins. They would live with Hortensia, Alfonso, and Miguel.

Vocabulary Worksheet

Name _____

Use the following blanks to list and define vocabulary words chosen from the included word list.

1. _____ Meaning: _____

2. _____ Meaning: _____

3. _____ Meaning: _____

4. _____ Meaning: _____

5. _____ Meaning: _____

6. _____ Meaning: _____

7. _____ Meaning: _____

8. _____ Meaning: _____

9. _____ Meaning: _____

10. _____ Meaning: _____

Comprehension Worksheet

Name _____

Answer five comprehension questions in complete sentences.

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

5. _____

Vocabulary and Comprehension Worksheet

Name _____

Use the following blanks to list and define vocabulary words chosen from the word list.

1. _____ Meaning: _____

2. _____ Meaning: _____

3. _____ Meaning: _____

Answer three comprehension questions in complete sentences.

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____
