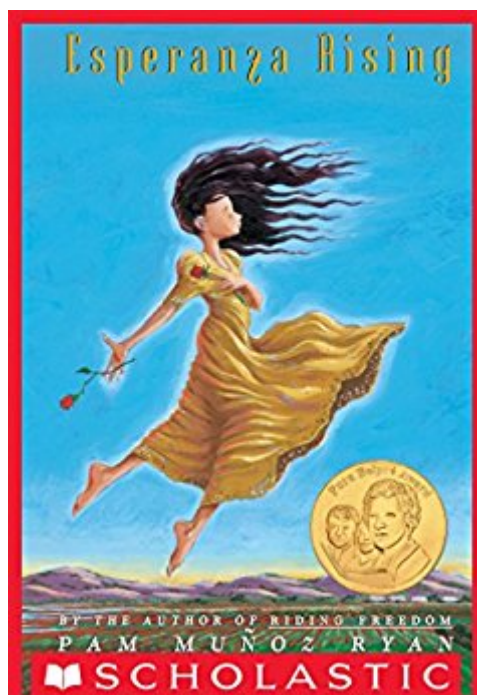


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# Esperanza Rising



## Synopsis

Esperanza thought she'd always live with her family on their ranch in Mexico--she'd always have fancy dresses, a beautiful home, and servants. But a sudden tragedy forces Esperanza and Mama to flee to California during the Great Depression, and to settle in a camp for Mexican farm workers. Esperanza isn't ready for the hard labor, financial struggles, or lack of acceptance she now faces. When their new life is threatened, Esperanza must find a way to rise above her difficult circumstances--Mama's life, and her own, depend on it.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

this book has been amazing to read, i found myself on the verge of tears at times just imagining a young girl going through harsh struggles in life like Esperanza after only knowing a pampered life. the story is captivating to say the least. the way it's written is great for kids that have an expanded vocabulary, 4 years and up according to the description product detail seems a bit young. it's perfect for older kids about 8 years and up, teens and even adults like myself that LOVE reading award

winning kid's books so that I can buy or recommend for family and friends.

This book is based on a true story. My 5th grader was assigned to read this in class so I read along with him. What a wonderful story of perseverance, love, family and determination. Esperanza was a spoiled rich girl from Mexico. With one tragedy, her entire world if turned upside down. She is forced to flea to America and become a working peasant. She has many struggles while learning how to work for everything she needs. She also has an amazing support system in her family and friends. This book depicts life of an immigrant during the great depression in the fields of California.

I love this book. It is by far my favorite book. The author is amazing the way she writes. You visualize everything that is going on. Esperanza goes through many ups-and-downs and is faced with many challenges. The themes in this book are many of which our youth can learn from. My fourth grade students read this book for our Literature Circles. It is seems to still be their favorite of the six we usually read throughout the year. I highly recommend you read this book.

What a great book! Yes, it's written for a young adult audience, but I loved it, too. Lots of Spanish in this but it's always immediately translated. I like the fact that the reader is exposed to another language. This book is sometimes sweet, sometimes heartbreaking, but always inspirational. It would be a good book especially for people who are called on to rise above their circumstances. I think it would be very encouraging.

Esperanza Rising, written by Pam Muñoz Ryan, is a story of love, loss, and hope, set in Mexico during the 1930s, just after the Mexican Revolution. Esperanza is the main character is a young girl living on her family's well-established vineyard in Aguascalientes, Mexico. Compared to those around them, Esperanza and her family live a very wealthy and lavish lifestyle, full of finer things. Raised by her loving parents, Ramona and Sixto Ortega, Abuelita (her grandmother), and long-time servants Hortensia and Alfonso, Eperanza has grown accustomed to her life with parties, her lovely dresses, dolls, and everyone treating her like the princess she believes she is. However, everything Esperanza has ever known comes crashing down around her when bandits attack and kill her father on the eve of her 13th birthday. Now, Esperanza, her mother Ramona, and Abuelita had a dilemma and a tough decision to make. Since her father is the head of the household is no longer living and able to take care of them, Esperanza's mother could not

take his place, so they only had two options; Ramona could choose to stay and marry her husband's evil, money-hungry brother, or they could take a risk, and go with Hortensia, Alfonso, and their son Miguel to America, the land of opportunity. In hopes to give themselves a better life than what they would have if they stayed in Mexico, Esperanza and her mother make the long and dangerous journey to America with their friends, leaving behind Abuelita because she was too weak. They promised each other that they would be reunited again soon. Coming to America is a major change from what Esperanza and her mother are used to, and it proves to be especially hard on Esperanza. Now she is an equal to the servants she once had, working long hours with little pay. When her mother suddenly becomes ill with a life-threatening disease, Esperanza shows everyone the woman she is becoming, working hard despite her frustrations and challenges. She holds onto hope (the meaning of her name), saving up enough money to bring Abuelita home and to pay her mother's steadily rising medical bills. With the story being set in the Depression era, this is not an easy task, especially for someone of Esperanza's age. "He who falls today may rise tomorrow" is a Mexican proverb quoted at the beginning of the book, and its meaning rings true to the story of Esperanza. *Esperanza Rising* is the coming-of-age story of a girl who loses practically everything and everyone she loves, and just when she reaches her lowest point, she finds a way to rise again, overcome her obstacles, and find joy and happiness in her new home with the people she cares most about. Pam Muñoz Ryan writes the story from the perspective of Esperanza, and the book has a wise and poetic but still light style to it, almost as though the reader is right there maturing alongside Esperanza; Ryan's writing draws the reader in well. The book also offers an insightful look inside the Hispanic culture, with references and translations throughout the book. In the "About the Author" section at the end of the book, Pam Muñoz Ryan states that her grandmother especially influenced her writing, and that *Esperanza Rising* is based on her immigration story. A Pura Belpré Award Winner, *Esperanza Rising* is a well-written story of kindness and determination that can be enjoyed by an audience of all ages. From the time it starts, it is hard to put down and you will never want it to end – a definite page-turner! I would highly recommend this book to anyone for pleasure or as an educational tool, as it offers a wonderful and thoughtful look inside a different culture and time period.

This book was introduced to me by my step-daughter... She was reading it in school.... She told me a little about it and it made me want to read it... I am glad to say it did... It made me cry and laugh,

smile and remember the stories my grandfather told me about when they, my family, were migrant workers going from field to field... I would recommend this book to everyone... Enjoy as I did!!!!

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