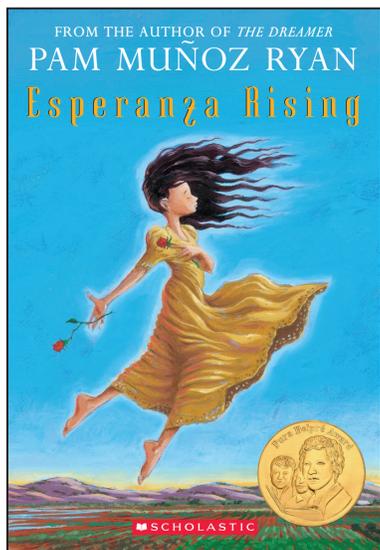


# Mother Daughter

BOOK CLUB



## Discussion Questions for *Esperanza Rising* by Pam Muñoz Ryan

1. Abuelita teaches Esperanza how to crochet. Is there a skill or talent that someone in your family has that you have learned or would like to learn? Please describe.
2. Abuelita says, “There is no rose without thorns.” What does this saying mean?
3. Why do you think Esperanza has such a hard time transitioning to her new life in Los Angeles?
4. On El Rancho de las Rosas, Esperanza told Miguel that they each stood on different sides of a river that could never be crossed. What does this mean? How do you think it made Miguel feel? How did their relationship change once they came to the United States?
5. A poor woman on the train to Los Angeles explains that although she is poor, she is rich. How can a poor person be rich? How can a rich person be poor?
6. Esperanza’s mother tells her: “*Esperanza, if we had stayed in Mexico and I had married Tio Luis, we could have had one choice. To be apart and miserable. Here, we have two choices.* To be together and miserable or to be together and happy. Mija, we have each other and Abuelita will come. How would she want you to behave? I choose to be happy. So which will you choose?” (page 104) How did Esperanza change after her mother said this? What advice has a friend or family member given that has helped you? Please explain.
7. Esperanza is not used to housework and takes a few bruises to her pride. Isabel tells her to laugh if she is teased. What are some other ways you can cope with being teased?
8. Esperanza gives Isabel the doll her father bought for her birthday. Why do you think she parts with her prize possession?
9. Abuelita always said, “Do not be afraid to start over.” Think about a time you had to start over. How did your feelings about starting over change over time?
10. What is your family ancestry? Did your relatives come to the United States from another country? If so, from where? And what was their life like there?