

Literature Circle: Esperanza Rising

Grades:	5th – 7th
Day of Week:	Wednesday
Time of Class:	9:00 am – 10:30 am ET
Length of Class:	10 weeks
Semester:	Winter 2024
Tuition:	\$250.00

Class Dates:

Week 1: Week of January 8

Week 2: Week of January 15

Week 3: Week of January 22

Week 4: Week of January 29

Week 5: Week of February 5

Week 6: Week of February 12

Week 7: Week of February 19

Week 8: Week of February 26

Week 9: Week of March 4

Week 10: Week of March 11

Make-Up Days: Week of March 18

Instructor's Name:	Eva Goldstein - Meola
Instructor's Email:	eva@writingteacher.com
Instructor's Phone:	305-906-2853
Instructor's Whats App:	305-906-2853

Description of Class:

Esperanza Rising is an incredible story of overcoming and perseverance. On one level Esperanza Rising is a heartwarming story of a young girl who learns the importance of love and sacrifice for family and friends, but on another level, it is also a lesson in the cultural as well as personal struggles that poor families, especially immigrants and farm laborers, must experience.

Esperanza thought she'd always live a privileged life on her family's ranch in Mexico. She'd always have fancy dresses, a beautiful home filled with servants, and Mama, Papa, and Abuelita to care for her. But a sudden tragedy forces Esperanza and Mama to flee to California and settle in a Mexican farm labor camp. Esperanza isn't ready for the hard work, financial struggles brought on by the Great Depression, or lack of acceptance she now faces. When Mama gets sick and a strike for better working conditions threatens to uproot their new life, Esperanza must find a way to rise above her difficult circumstances-because Mama's life, and her own, depend on it.

Together, students will read and discuss the story of Esperanza and find relationships between what is happening in the novel and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. This is a study in history, human rights, and reading comprehension.

What is a Literature Circle?

In literature circles, small groups of students gather to discuss a piece of literature in depth. The discussion is guided by students' responses to what they have read. You may hear talk about events and characters in the book, the author's craft, or personal experiences related to the story. Literature circles provide a way for students to engage in critical thinking and reflection as they read, discuss, and respond to books. Collaboration is at the heart of this approach. Students reshape and add onto their understanding as they construct meaning with other readers. Finally, literature circles guide students to deeper understanding of what they read through structured discussion and extended written and artistic response.

Class Approach:

The class will be a combination of reading comprehension review via Kahoot!, in class journal writing/freewrite, vocabulary, discussion, and creative assignments.

Textbook:

Esperanza Rising
By Pam Munoz Ryan

https://www.amazon.com/Esperanza-Rising-McDougal-Littell-Library/dp/043912042X/ref=sr_1_1?crid=2MBI0CD0P7T3E&keywords=esperanza+rising&qid=1641058827&srefix=esperanza+rising%2Caps%2C102&sr=8-1

**** PLEASE DO NOT HAVE STUDENTS PRE-READ BOOK. ****

Additional Supplies/Resources Needed:

Microphone / Headset for Class Discussions
single subject spiral notebook for journal reflections
Pencil / Pen
Colored Pencils / Markers / Crayons
Basic Art Supplies
Access to PowerPoint (if student chooses this option)

Requirements:

A sensitivity to other students and any emotions that may come out during the reading of the book as well as discussions.

Students are EXPECTED to participate in class discussions.

Weekly Homework:

Approximately a 60 – 90 minutes weekly.

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Homework Policy:

It is expected that students will keep up with the reading to be able to fully participate in class.

Grading Scale:

Exceeds Expectations
Meets Expectations
Not Yet
Incomplete

If parents would like a traditional letter grade, please notify the teacher by week two of the class.

Anticipated Weekly Course Schedule:

Week	Topic
Week 1	Introduction Aguascalientes, México, 1924
Week 2	Las uvas / Grapes Las papayas / Papayas
Week 3	Los higos / Figs Las guayabas / Guavas
Week 4	Los melones / Cantaloupes Las cebollas / Onions

Week	Topic
Week 5	Las almendras / Almonds Las ciruelas / Plums
Week 6	Las papas / Potatoes Los aguacates / Avocados
Week 7	Los espárragos / Asparagus
Week 8	Los duraznos / Peaches
Week 9	Las uvas / Grapes
Week 10	Final Project Presentation Jeopardy