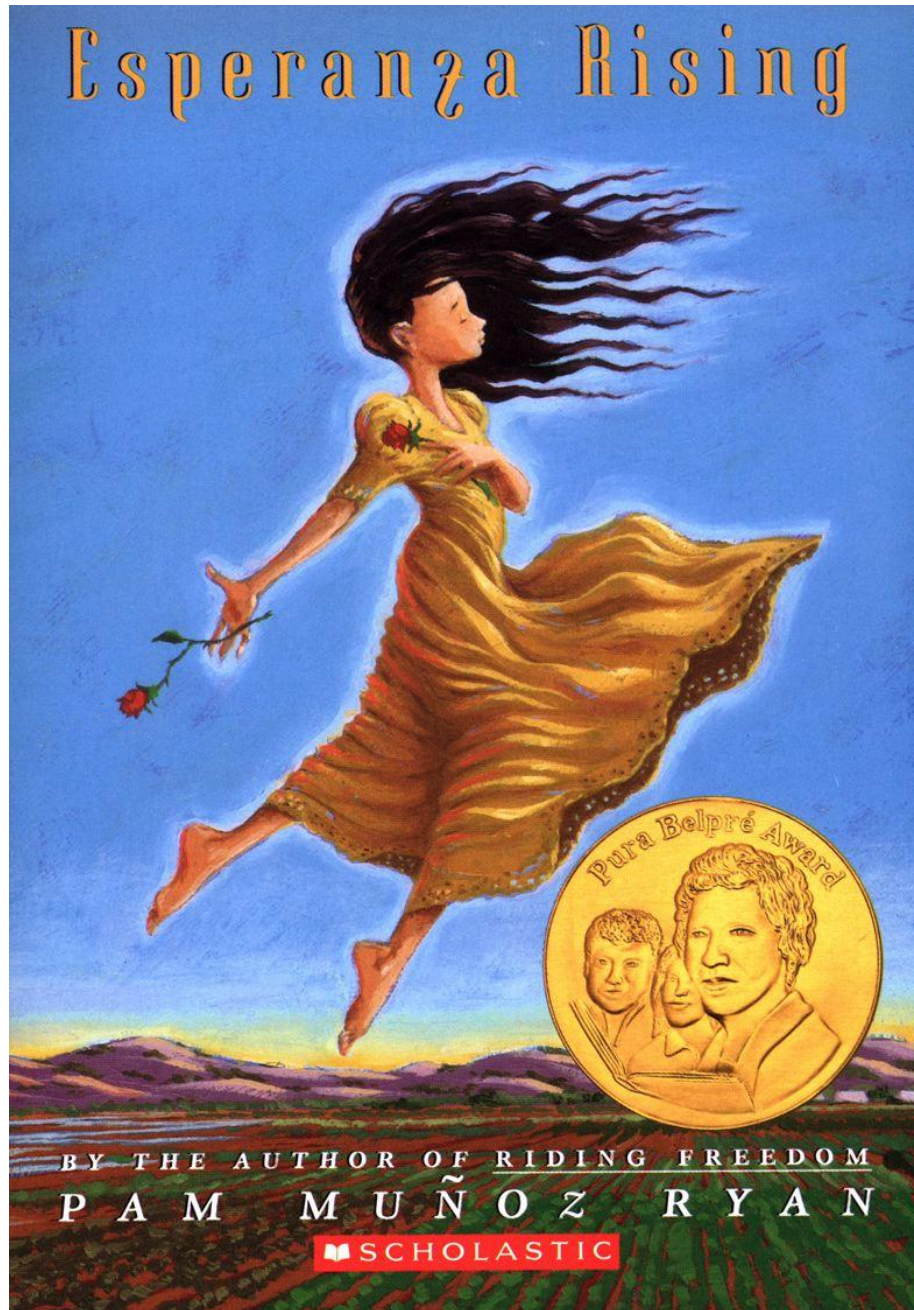


Student Comprehension Book



Esperanza Rising
by Pam Munoz Ryan

PreReading:

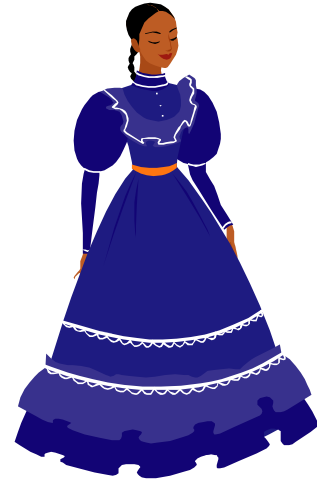
1. Predict what the story might be about just by hearing the title.
2. Predict what the story might be about by looking at the cover illustration.

Please answer the following questions in complete sentences.

1. Have you ever lost something that meant the world to you?
2. Would you ever be able to take care of your family if your parents died or got really sick?
3. Would you ever learn to live in a shack without running water or electricity?
4. Could you ever move to a new country with no money and completely start over?
5. Write descriptions of what makes a person strong and courageous. Determine whether such strength is emotional, spiritual, or physical; and if you can acquire it or are you born with it?

Esperanza Rising
by Pam Munoz Ryan

Las Uvas (*Grapes*)



1. Who is telling the story?

2. What is the name of the ranch?

3. Who lives on the ranch?

4. What fruit does the ranch grow? _____

5. What is Esperanza about to celebrate and why is it important?

6. What did Papa promise to Esperanza? Did he keep his promise? _____

7. What happened to Esperanza that was “bad luck?” Who agreed with Esperanza that it was bad luck? _____

8. Why was there resentment toward Mexican land owners? _____

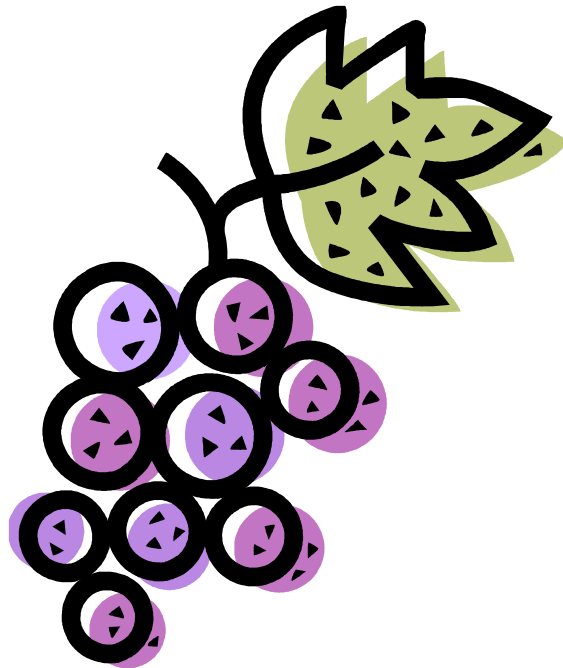
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9. Abuelita is very wise. What does she do to keep her mind busy? What does she mean by “There is no rose without thorns.” _____

10. Who are Alfonso, Hortensia, and Miguel? _____

11. Who are Tio Luis and Tio Marco and what do they bring to Mama? _____

12. What was brought back in the wagon? _____



Esperanza Rising
by Pam Munoz Ryan

Las Uvas

As you read *Esperanza Rising*, you will notice many Spanish words and phrases. Please fill in the chart as you read.

Spanish	English
<i>Cuidate los dedos</i>	watch your fingers
<i>Vaqueros</i>	
<i>campesinos</i>	
<i>La cosecha</i>	
<i>Ole</i>	
<i>Fiesta</i>	
<i>Quinceaneras</i>	
<i>Las Mananitas</i>	
<i>Algun dia</i>	
<i>Mi nieta</i>	
<i>El jefe</i>	
<i>Companero</i>	
<i>Mi reina</i>	
<i>Un burro</i>	

Esperanza Rising
by Pam Munoz Ryan

Las Papayas (*Papayas*) Questions

Please answer the following questions with **COMPLETE SENTENCES**.

1. What did Esperanza dream about? Did it come true? Why or why not? _____



2. Who is Senor Rodriguez? What did he bring and for what occasion?

3. What was Esperanza's favorite birthday food? _____

4. How long did Papa's funeral last? _____

5. Why didn't Esperanza want to open her birthday presents? _____

6. What present did Papa give Esperanza every year? _____

7. Why does Esperanza compare Tio Luis and Tio Marco to *la calabaza*? _____

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8. Why does Esperanza get angry when she sees Tio Luis wearing Papa's belt buckle? How would you have felt? _____

9. What does Tio Luis ask of Mama? _____

10. What kinds of things could Tio Luis do to Mama because she refused to marry him? _____

11. What did Mama get to keep after Papa died? What did Tio Luis and Tio Marco get to have? _____

12. Why is everyone so worried about getting money? _____

13. What did Abuelita say about rosehips? _____

14. How is Papa different from other landowners in Mexico? _____

15. What does Esperanza mean when she tells Miguel that they are on different sides of the river? _____

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16. Find these words in *Las Uvas* and write the sentence that contains the word.

What do you think these words mean?

a. melodic (p. 23):

b. refined (p.26):

c. crocheting (p. 29):

d. indignation (p. 30):

e. reputation (p.36):

f. pervaded (p. 38):

Esperanza Rising
by Pam Munoz Ryan

Las Papayas

As you read *Esperanza Rising*, you will notice many Spanish words and phrases. Please fill in the chart as you read.

Spanish	English
<i>Un chal</i>	
<i>La sala</i>	
<i>Que paso, nina?</i>	
<i>Mantilla</i>	
<i>La calabaza</i>	



Esperanza Rising
by Pam Munoz Ryan

In the following activity, you will become a character in each situation and express yourself as if “you were there.” Pretend you are the character and tell what they see, smell, hear, touch, and feel.

Activity: After Papa’s death, Mama finds herself in a tough situation. She has lost her husband, her land, and has refused a powerful man what he wants. Mama has shown strength by telling Tio Luis she will not marry him, but it has put her, her family, and her servants in danger. Pretend you are Mama after telling Tio Luis no. What happened and how are you feeling?

Time: _____	Date: _____
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Esperanza Rising
by Pam Munoz Ryan

Los Higos (*Figs*) Questions

Read the following sentences. Decide if the italicized part of the sentence tells you *where, when, or how*. Circle the correct choice.

1. Papa left the ranch *at dawn*. where when how
2. Esperanza and Miguel played *in the rose garden*. where when how
3. The wagon returned *later that night*. where when how
4. Esperanza watched *carefully* from her room. where when how
5. *In the morning*, Esperanza wished it was a dream. where when how
6. Tio Luis and Marco arrived *quickly*. where when how
7. The family went *to the funeral* to remember Papa. where when how
8. Esperanza talked with Miguel *one morning*. where when how
9. The roses grew *on the vines*. where when how
10. The men worked *in the field*. where when how

Esperanza Rising
by Pam Munoz Ryan

Los Higos (*Figs*) Questions

Please answer the following questions with **COMPLETE SENTENCES**.

1. What do you think Esperanza's dream about the bear symbolizes? _____

2. Why was Mama shaking Esperanza awake? _____



3. Why did Miguel have to go get Abuelita? _____

4. What did the fire burn? _____

5. What was saved from the fire? _____

6. Do you think Tio Luis and Tio Marco felt sorry for Esperanza, Mama, and Abuelita? Why or why not? _____

7. Why did Mama ask for Esperanza's forgiveness with her eyes? Do you think Mama made the right decision? _____

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8. What could Tio Luis and Tio Marco do if Mama refuses Tio Luis? _____

9. What is Mama's decision and how does it affect Esperanza? _____

10. Why does Abuelita compare them to a phoenix? _____

11. Why does Abuelita go to the convent (a place where nuns live)? _____

12. What does Abuelita give to Esperanza and why does she give it to Esperanza? _____

13. What are the figs used for that Senor Rodriguez brings over? _____

14. What did Esperanza take with her? _____

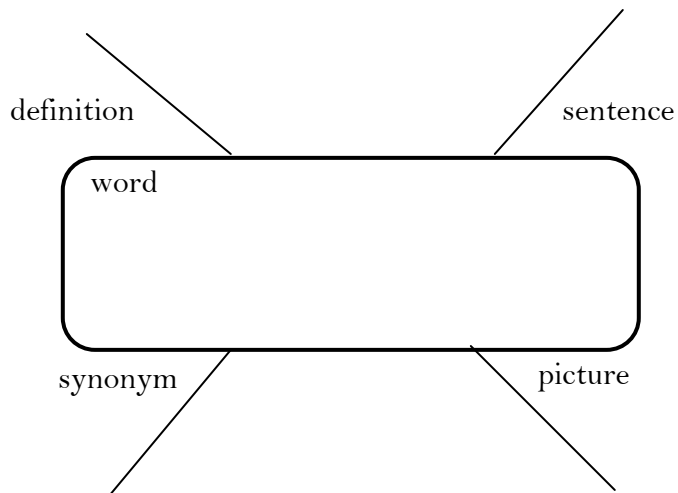
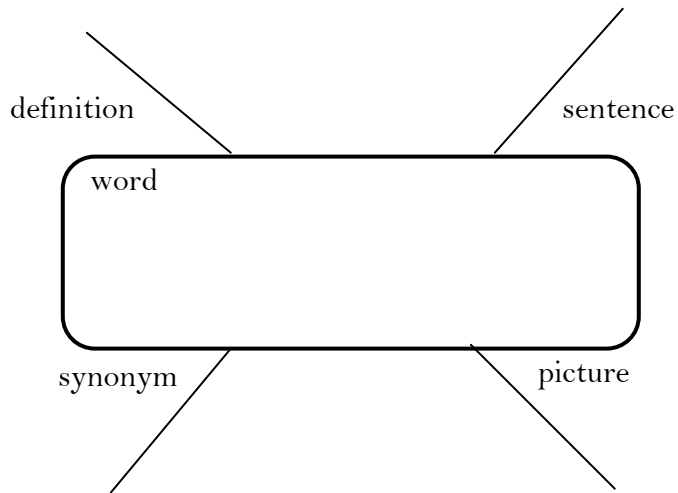
15. What "looked as if someone had taken a giant comb, dipped it in black paint, and gently swirled it across a huge canvas?" _____

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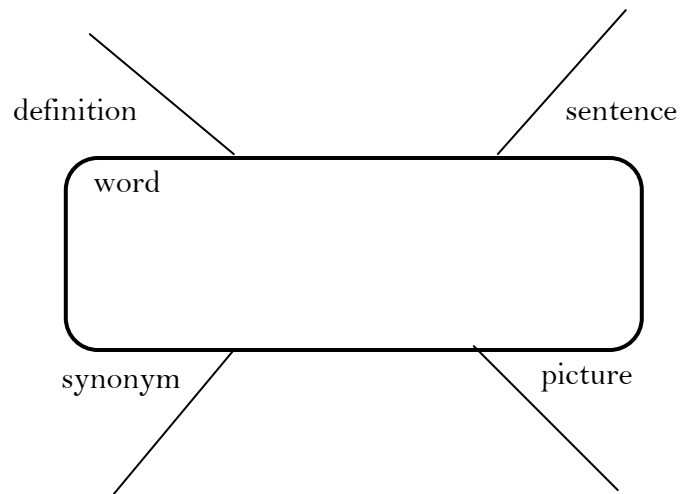
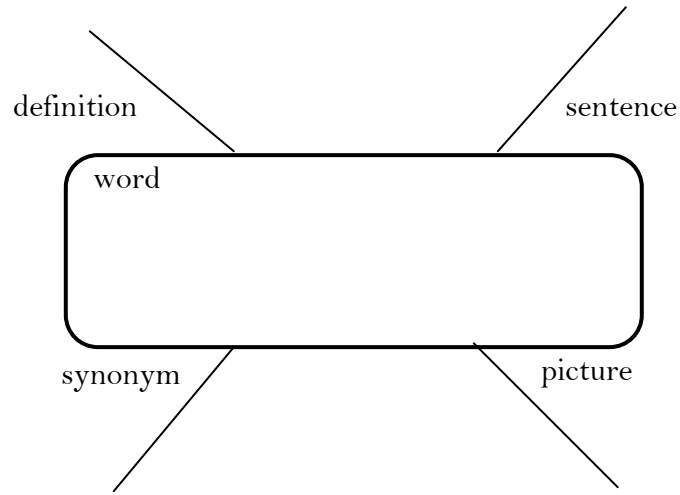
Los Higos Vocabulary

Chose four of the following vocabulary words from chapters 4 and 5 and create vocabulary maps.

waif valise venom whimpered cinder plentiful



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Los Guayabas (*Guavas*) Questions

Sequencing Events

The events listed below are arranged in incorrect sequence. Write 1 in the blank before the event that happened first, 2 before the event that happened next, and so on.

- _____ Mama and Esperanza get on a train car with peasants.
- _____ Hortensia reassures Esperanza with a story.
- _____ Mama makes a yarn doll for a little girl after Esperanza refuses to let her play with Esperanza's doll.
- _____ Miguel tells Esperanza "Those with Spanish blood, who have the fairest complexions in the land, are the wealthiest."
- _____ Esperanza, Mama, and Hortensia hid in a false floor under the wagon.
- _____ Esperanza remembers Miguel's reward of a train ride.
- _____ Carmen gave Esperanza a piece of coconut candy.
- _____ Senor Rodriguez let Esperanza, Mama, Miguel, Alfonso and Hortensia into the barn.
- _____ Carmen gives the beggar some money.
- _____ They arrive in the village of Zacatecas.

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Los Guayabas Questions

Please answer the following questions with **COMPLETE SENTENCES**.



1. Where did Mama, Esperanza, and Hortensia hide? Do you think it is a good hiding place? Why or why not? _____

2. Why was it unsafe for the women to ride in the front of the wagon?

3. What does Hortensia tell Esperanza to make her feel better? _____

4. What was Miguel's reward from Papa? What does Papa buy for Esperanza and Miguel? _____

5. Describe the train car Esperanza rides in. _____

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6. What does the peasant girl want from Esperanza? What is Mama's reaction to Esperanza's attitude? _____

7. What do you think Alfonso and Miguel are hiding? What do they keep doing with the package? _____

8. Why is Miguel excited to go to the United States? _____

9. Who is the woman with the hens and why is she important? _____

10. What do you think will happen next? _____

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Las Guayabas Questions

As you read *Esperanza Rising*, you will notice many Spanish words and phrases. Please fill in the chart as you read.

Spanish	English
<i>Mija</i>	
<i>Raton</i>	
<i>Rebozo</i>	
<i>Carpetas</i>	
<i>Mona</i>	
<i>Gracias</i>	
<i>De nada</i>	
<i>Pepinos</i>	
<i>Una palanca</i>	
<i>Dulces</i>	
<i>Buena suerte</i>	

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Los Melones (*Cantaloupes*) Questions

Please answer the following questions with **COMPLETE SENTENCES**.

1. Where did Esperanza finally get off of the train? _____

2. Why were people getting on trains back toward Mexico? _____

3. Where did the family get off the train for good? Who was there to meet them?

4. Why is Isabel so impressed with Esperanza? _____

5. Why did Isabel's family have to live in a tent at one time? _____

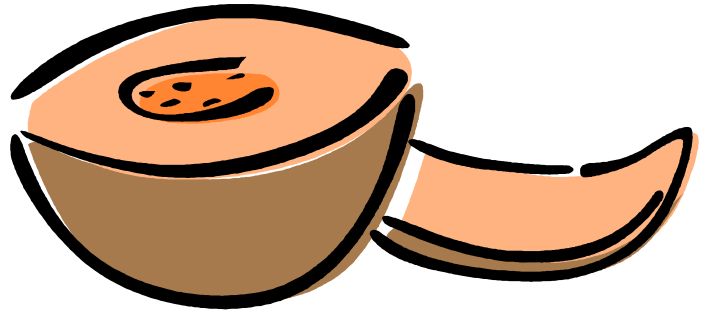
6. Why do you think Esperanza can't hear the heartbeat of the valley? _____

7. Describe the San Joaquin Valley: _____

8. Why can they take the melons from the fields? _____

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by Pam Munoz Ryan

9. Who is Marta? What do you think of her? _____



10. Why is Marta critical of Papa? _____

11. Why does Marta want the people to strike? _____

12. Find these words in *Los Melones* and write the sentence that contains the word. What do you think these words mean?

a. jalopy (p.88)

b. cherubs (p.88)

c. hillock (p.95)

d. finery (p.96)

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Los Melones Questions

Some of the following sentences are statements of fact. Some of the statements are of opinion. In the blank before each sentence, write the letter *F* if that sentence is a statement of fact. Write *O* if that sentence is a statement of opinion.

- _____ 1. Esperanza and Mama were very dirty from their trip on the train.
- _____ 2. Esperanza was nervous waiting in line.
- _____ 3. Esperanza and Mama are from Aguascalientes.
- _____ 4. Mama was angry at the man for asking so many questions.
- _____ 5. It is sad that some people could not get through immigration.
- _____ 6. Alfonso and Miguel found water for their package.
- _____ 7. Esperanza slept well on the train.
- _____ 8. The twins names are Juan and Josefina.
- _____ 9. Isabel is annoying.
- _____ 10. Esperanza did not like Isabel.
- _____ 11. Mama brought the two red chickens with her.
- _____ 12. Chicken eggs are good to make with burritos.
- _____ 13. The valley looked beautiful from the truck.
- _____ 14. The grass was prickly.
- _____ 15. Left over melons taste worse than melons from a store.
- _____ 16. Picking leftover melons is hard work.
- _____ 17. Marta has short, black, and curly hair.
- _____ 18. Marta is mean to Esperanza because she is jealous.
- _____ 19. The campesinos do not have hot water.
- _____ 20. Esperanza does not like Marta.

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Los Melones

As you read *Esperanza Rising*, you will notice many Spanish words and phrases. Please fill in the chart as you read.

Spanish	English
<i>Campesino</i>	
<i>Arroyo</i>	
<i>Jamaica</i>	
<i>Entiendes</i>	

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Las Cebollas (*Onions*) Questions

Please answer the following questions with **COMPLETE SENTENCES**.

1. Describe the camp that Esperanza comes to live in. _____

2. Describe Esperanza's new house. How is it different from her old house? _____

3. Why does Esperanza still consider herself to be rich? _____

4. What are Esperanza's jobs at the camp? _____

5. Who are Irene and Melina? _____

6. Esperanza learns many things from Isabel. List 4 things that you think are the MOST important for Esperanza to learn.

a.)

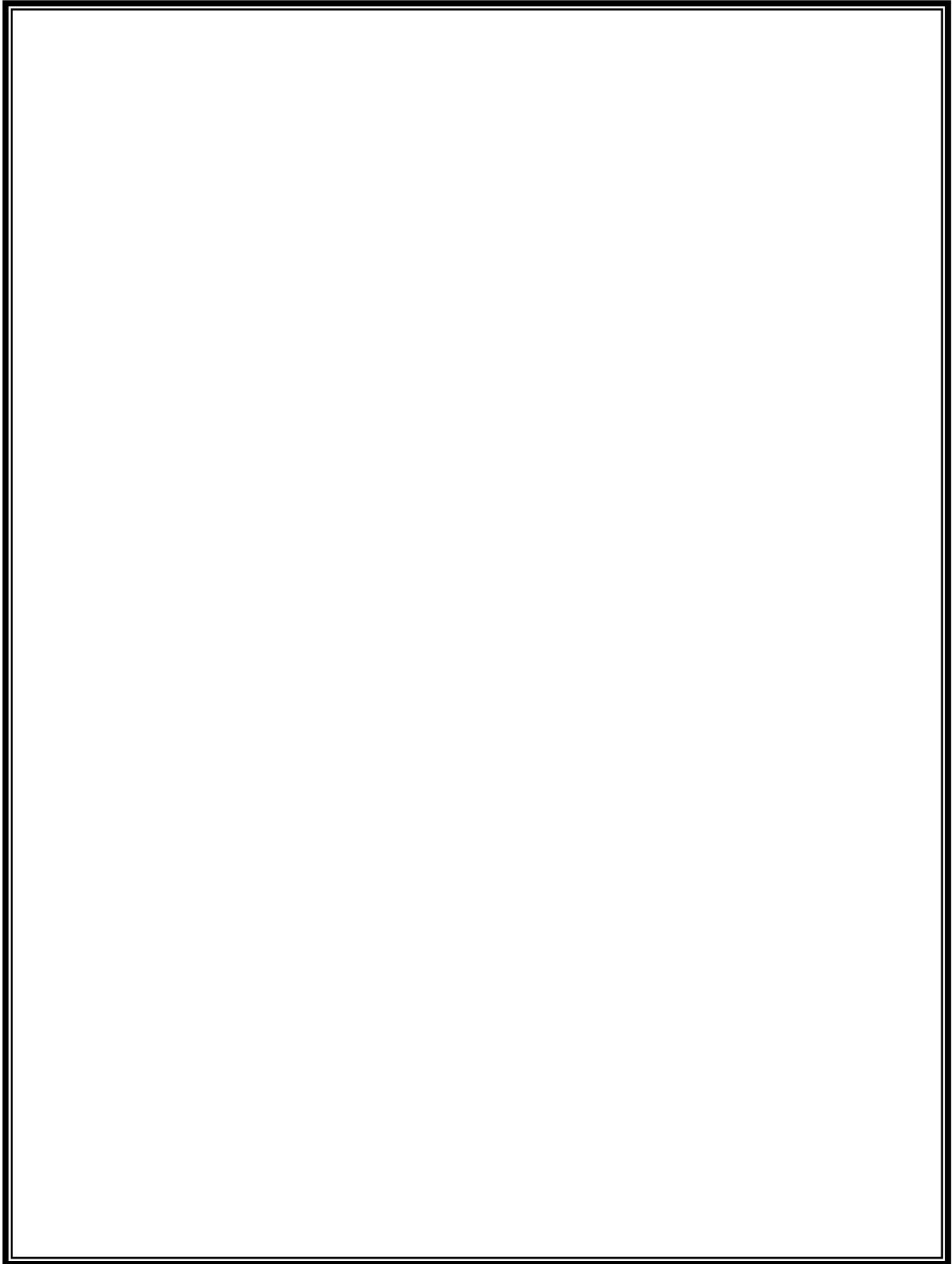
b.)

c.)

d.)

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7. Draw a picture of what happened when Esperanza went to sweep the platform:



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Los Cebollas

As you read *Esperanza Rising*, you will notice many Spanish words and phrases. Please fill in the chart as you read.

Spanish	English
<i>De veras?</i>	
<i>Café</i>	
<i>Chorizo</i>	
<i>Un burrito de frijoles</i>	
<i>La Cenicienta</i>	
<i>Mi reina</i>	

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SPANISH NUMBERS

In *Esperanza Rising*, we are continually learning new words in Spanish. Esperanza has come to a new country where she must learn new cultures and customs.

Use your Math knowledge to find the Spanish words below for the numbers one (1) through ten (10). Use the clues to write the Spanish word beside the number at the bottom of the page.

CLUES

- * CINCO is an odd number between 3 and 7
- * $3 \times (5-4) = \text{TRES}$
- * $14-5 = \text{NUEVE}$
- * $\text{SEIS} \times \text{SEIS} = 36$
- * $\text{DOS} \times \text{DOS} = 4$
- * $2 \times \text{DOS} = \text{CUATRO}$
- * $\text{TRES} + \text{CUATRO} = \text{SIETE}$
- * $\text{DOS} \times \text{CUATRO} = \text{OCHO}$
- * $\text{UNO} + 9 = \text{DIEZ}$

1. _____

6. _____

2. _____

7. _____

3. _____

8. _____

4. _____

9. _____

5. _____

10. _____

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Las Almendras (*Almonds*) Questions

Please answer the following questions with **COMPLETE SENTENCES**.

1. In what way was Esperanza hurt from her first day at work? How is this different from the rest of the family? _____

2. What was Miguel and Alfonso's surprise? _____

3. Why hadn't Esperanza taken a bath since she left Augascalientes? _____

4. Why was Esperanza afraid to go the jamaica? What finally made her decide to go? _____

5. Describe the fiesta. _____

6. What does Esperanza ask Josephina for? _____

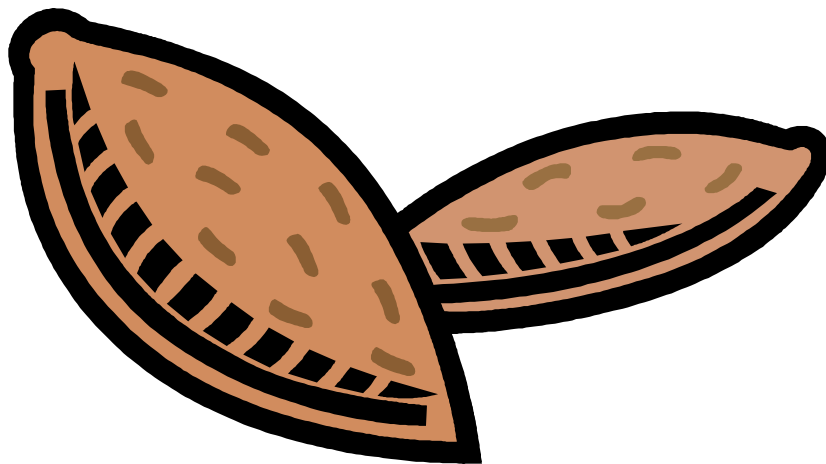
7. Why does Marta compare the workers to the kittens? _____

8. Why are so many people looking for work on farms? _____

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9. Do you think it would be good or bad for the workers to strike? Defend your answer. _____

10. What will Esperanza pray for at church? What does this tell us about her? ____



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Las Almendras

As you read *Esperanza Rising*, you will notice many Spanish words and phrases. Please fill in the chart as you read.

Spanish	English
<i>Andale</i>	
<i>Agua de Jamaica</i>	
<i>Huelga</i>	

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Las Ciruelas (*Plums*) Questions

Please answer the following questions with **COMPLETE SENTENCES**.

1. Describe Esperanza's first morning alone with Pepe and Lupe.

2. What did Esperanza do to make the babies feel better? _____

3. List Esperanza's daily schedule:

4. What is the reason that some people strike and some keep working? _____

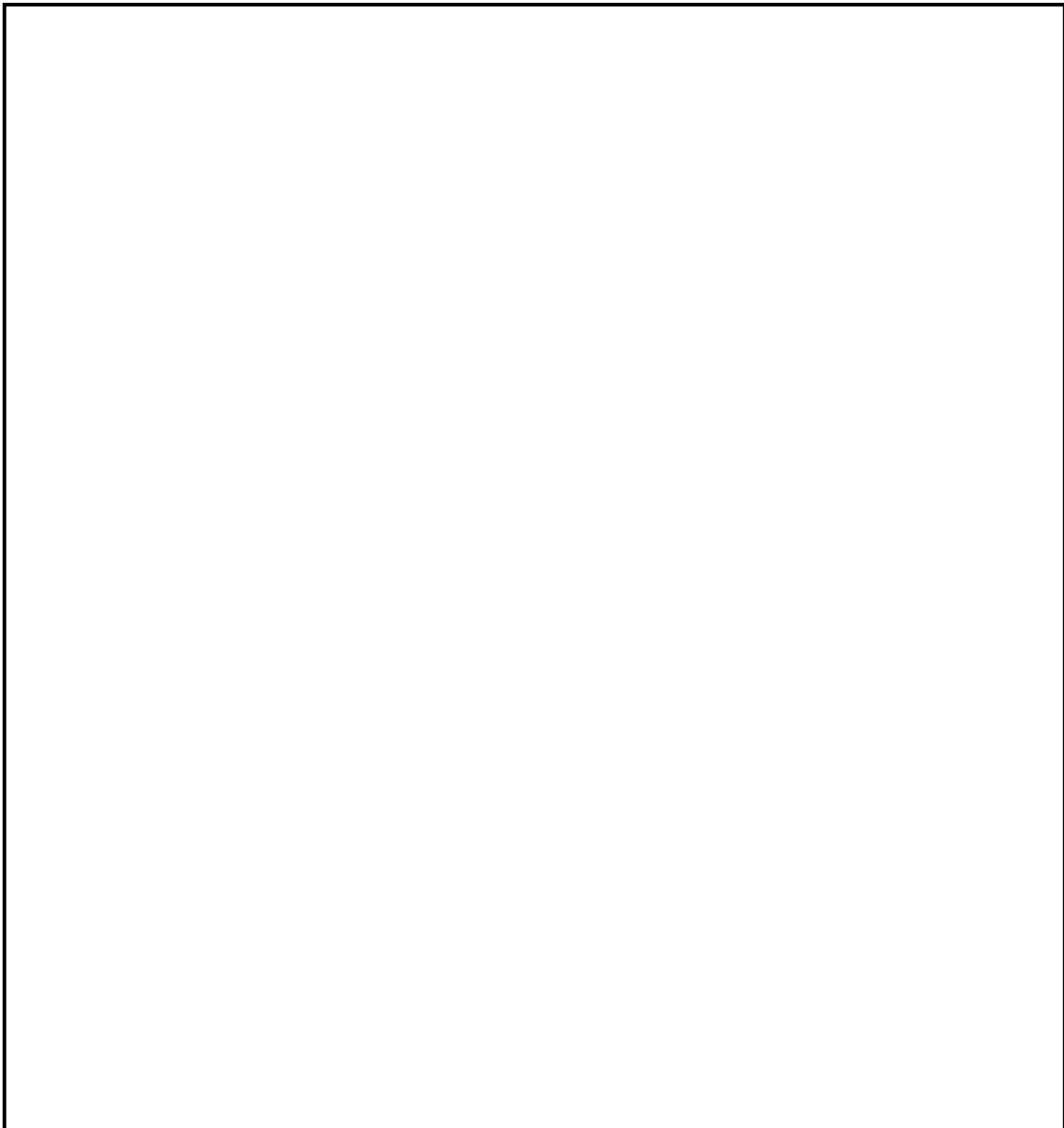
5. Describe the dust storm. Why is it so dangerous? _____

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6. What happened to Mama? _____

7. What is Valley Fever? _____

8. Read over the description of the dust storm carefully; then draw a picture to show what it looks like based upon the description in the book:



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Los Ciruelas

As you read *Esperanza Rising*, you will notice many Spanish words and phrases. Please fill in the chart as you read.

Spanish	English
<i>Rapido</i>	
<i>Una tormenta de polvo</i>	
<i>Mi gata</i>	
<i>Manana</i>	



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Las Papa (*Potatoes*) Questions

Read the following sentences. Explain in your own words the meaning of the italicized word or group of words. Write your response on the line below.

1. Esperanza worried the strikers might *turn on her*.

2. It seemed *like a lifetime ago* since Papa had died.

3. The fine brown powder *had found its way* deep inside the trunk.

4. The crocheting was *only a few hands wide*.

5. Esperanza stared *straight into the alley of light* made from the truck's headlamps.

6. Esperanza was *holding back tears*.

7. A thick tule ground fog that *hugged the earth* settled in the valley.

8. She turned to the wall, *yearning for the holidays of the past*.

9. Isabel *slid in* beside Esperanza.

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Las Papas (*Potatoes*) Questions

Please answer the following questions with **COMPLETE SENTENCES**.

1. What is happening to Mama?



2. What does Esperanza think will help Mama and why? _____

3. Compare what is happening to Mama to the blanket. _____

4. Why is Mama depressed? _____

5. What does Esperanza decide to do to help herself and Mama? _____

6. Describe what Esperanza is wearing to work in the sheds. How does she get her clothing? _____

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7. Reread the description of the packing shed on page 168. Draw a picture showing what it looks like.

8. Describe the process for cutting potato eyes: _____

9. Why is Marta not allowed to stay with her aunt and uncle? _____

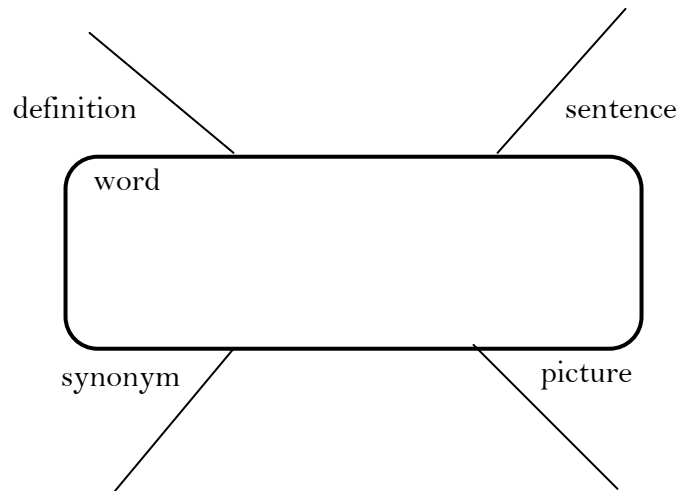
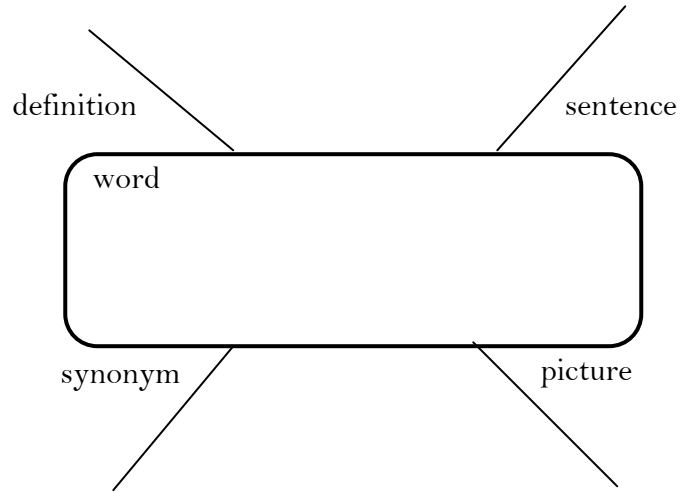
10. What does Esperanza think of Marta's plans? _____

11. What is Esperanza's Christmas wish? _____

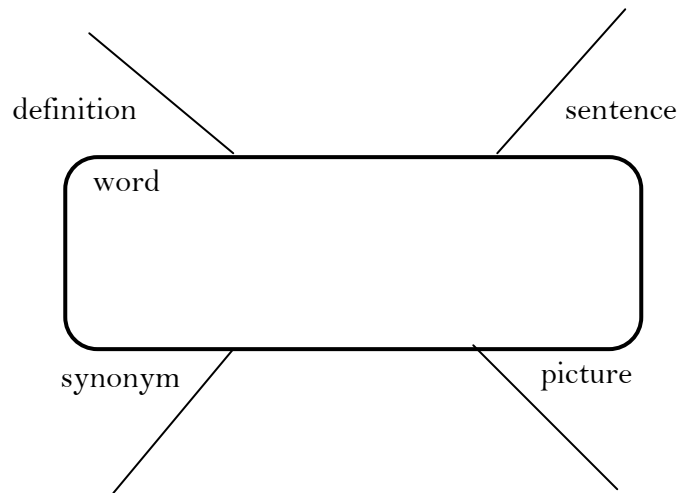
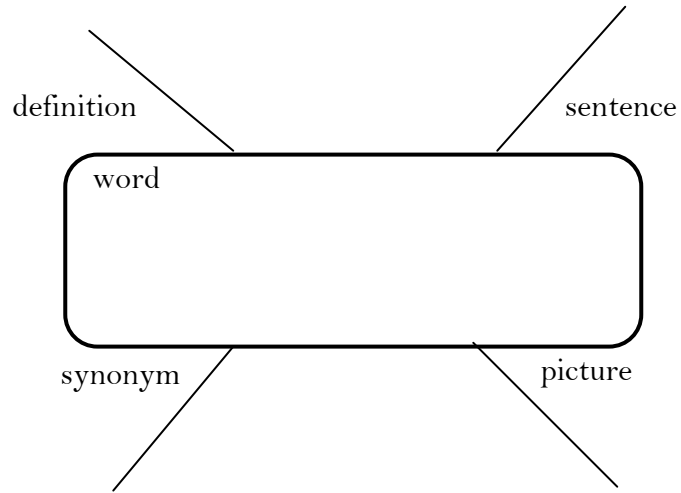
12. Chose 4 of the following vocabulary words to make vocabulary maps

needlework	intent	grotto	charity	repatriation	nativity
------------	--------	--------	---------	--------------	----------

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Las Papas

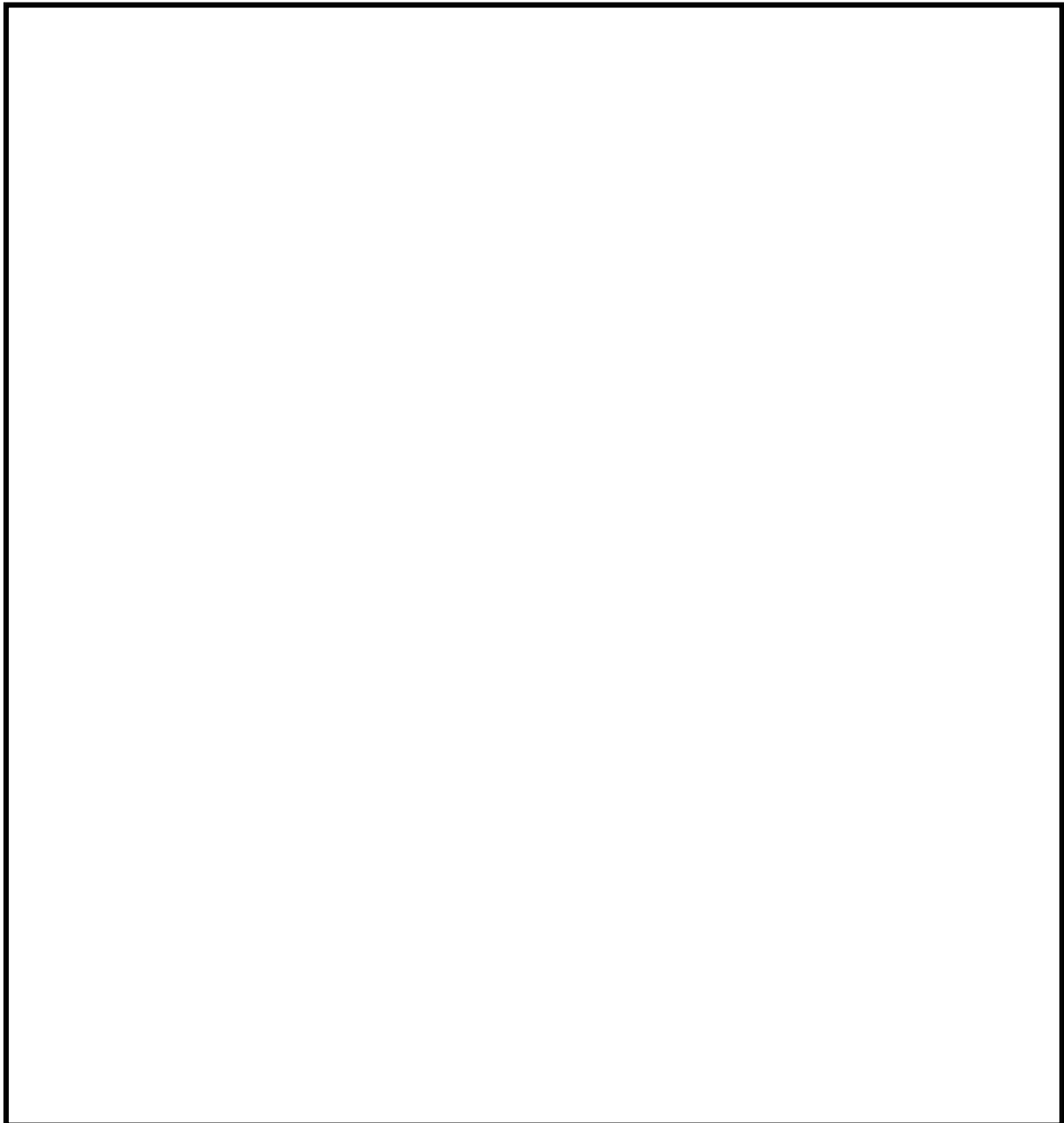
As you read *Esperanza Rising*, you will notice many Spanish words and phrases. Please fill in the chart as you read.

Spanish	English
<i>La Migra</i>	
<i>La Navidad</i>	
<i>Feliz Navidad</i>	
<i>Catedral</i>	
<i>Atole de chocolate</i>	
<i>Un cuento de hadas</i>	
<i>La patrona</i>	

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Las Papas

Draw one of the scenes the author describes in Las Papas. Write YOUR OWN description of what you have drawn. Be sure to use complete sentences.



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Los Aguagcates (*Avocados*) Questions

Please answer the following questions with **COMPLETE SENTENCES**.

1. What is Esperanza's life like now? _____

2. What did Hortencia do to help Esperanza's hands? _____

3. How would you have felt if you were Esperanza when the doctor told her
Mama had pnemonia? _____

4. Why did Hortensia want Esperanza to go to the grocery store? _____

5. Why does the family go to Mr. Yakota's store instead of the others? _____

6. Why do you think Miguel said people see Mexicans as "one big, brown group
who are good for only manual labor?" _____

7. What does Esperanza buy as a treat for Mama? _____

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8. Where do Marta and her mother live? _____



9. Why does Marta change
her mind about Esperanza?

10. What good news does Miguel share with the family? Do you think it is good
or bad and why? _____

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Los Aguacates

As you read *Esperanza Rising*, you will notice many Spanish words and phrases. Please fill in the chart as you read.

Spanish	English
<i>Por favor</i>	
<i>Que Buena suerte</i>	
<i>Gracias</i>	



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Los Esparragos (*Asparagus*) Questions

A synonym is a word having the same or nearly the same meaning as another word.
Choose a synonym for each word in the Word List. Write the synonym on the blank.

1. begin _____
2. sound _____
3. wise _____
4. cry _____
5. pluck _____
6. frighten _____
7. protect _____
8. starve _____
9. struck _____
10. slither _____
11. paces _____
12. mend _____
13. wound _____
14. dawn _____
15. held _____

Word List

weep	hit	steps	scare	hungry	glide
start	smart	fix	injure	guard	daybreak
grasped	pick	noise			

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Los Esparragos (*Asparagus*) Questions

Please answer the following questions with **COMPLETE SENTENCES**.

1. Why is Esperanza so worried about the striker's efforts? _____

2. List the things the strikers did to those who did not strike.

a)

b)

c)

d)

e)

3. Would you be afraid of the strikers? Why or why not? _____

4. What happened to stop the strikers from striking? _____

5. Do you think it is fair that this happened? Why or why not? _____

6. What did Esperanza discover hiding in a corner? _____

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7. Why do you think Esperanza did not turn Marta into the officials? _____

8. How was the striker's camp different from before the deportation? _____

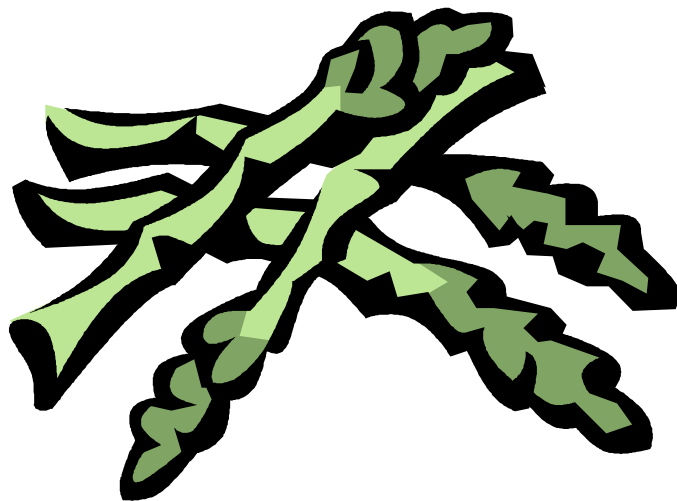
9. Draw a picture of what the camp now looks like:

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Los Esparragos

As you read *Esperanza Rising*, you will notice many Spanish words and phrases. Please fill in the chart as you read.

Spanish	English
<i>Americana</i>	
<i>La Migra</i>	
<i>Gracias</i>	

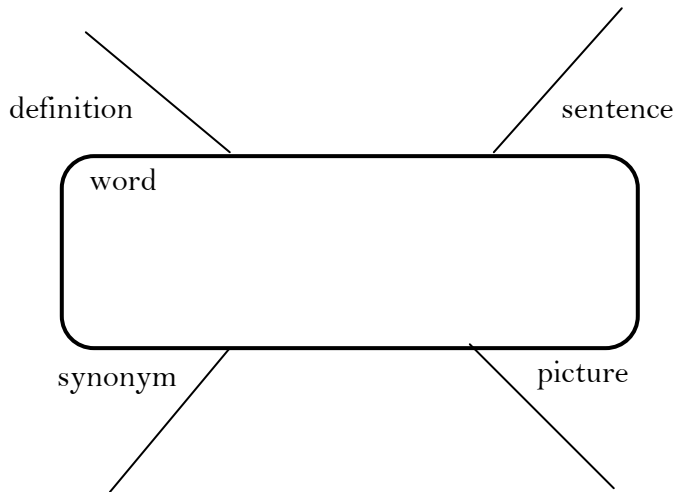
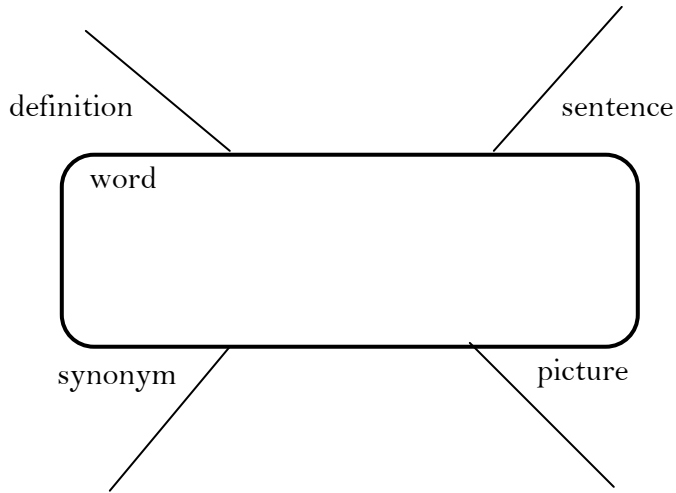


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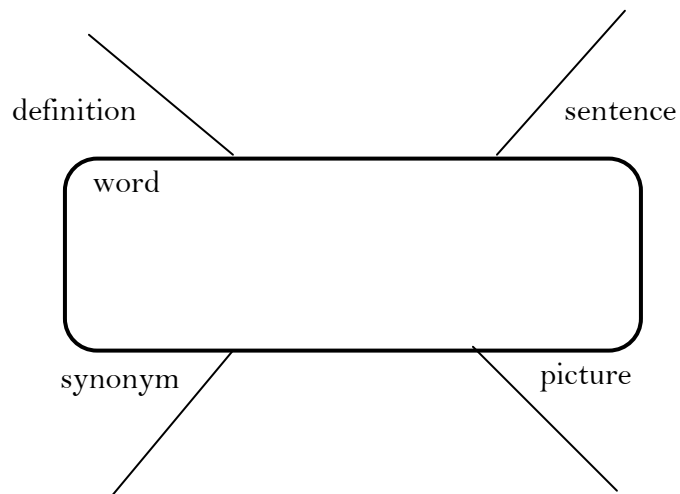
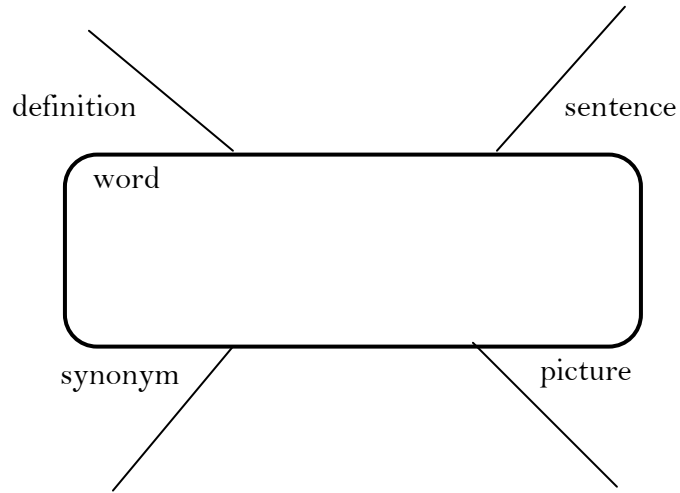
Los Duraznos (*Peaches*) Questions

1. Chose 4 of the following words and make vocabulary maps.

posy devoutly barracks irrigation anxiety relapse



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Los Duranznos (*Peaches*) Questions

Please answer the following questions with **COMPLETE SENTENCES**.

1. Why is Isabel praying at the washtub grotto? _____

2. Why is it unlikely that Isabel will get her wish? _____

3. How is the camp for the Oklahoma people different from Esperanza's camp?

4. What happened to Miguel and his job? _____

5. What is Esperanza's reaction to Miguel losing his job? Why do you think she reacted this way? _____

6. What happened to Miguel after he and Esperanza fought? _____

7. Why was Isabel waiting for Esperanza? _____

8. How does Esperanza react to Isabel's news? _____

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9. What does Esperanza do for Isabel to make her feel better? _____

10. What good news does Esperanza receive about Mama? _____

11. Describe the preparations Hortensia and Josephina made for Mama. _____

12. What happened to Esperanza's money orders? What would you have done in the situation? _____

13. What do you think will happen next?

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Las Uvas (*Grapes*) Questions

Please answer the following questions with **COMPLETE SENTENCES**.

1. Why was Esperanza mad at Miguel? How would you have felt? _____

2. What fruit did the women have to sort? _____

3. What is Esperanza's favorite fruit and why? _____

4. What does Alfonso come to tell Esperanza? _____

5. Is Esperanza excited to see Miguel? Why or why not? _____

6. Miguel did not bring Esperanza back her money orders. What did he bring her instead? Is this a better or worse gift? Why? _____

7. What is Mama's reaction to the surprise? _____



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8. Describe how Abuelita traveled to the camp. _____

9. How did Esperanza tell Abuelita her story? _____

10. What did Esperanza ask Miguel for her birthday? Why did she want this gift?

11. What was Esperanza's big realization? _____

12. In the following space, write a letter to Esperanza, and tell her how you feel about her and what she has gone through.

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The chapter titles in *Esperanza Rising* are the names of fruits and vegetables. Each fruit or vegetable appears in that chapter and symbolizes something important. Write about each fruit or vegetable in the chart below.

Chapter Title/Food	How does the food appear in the story?	What does the fruit symbolize?
<i>Uvas</i>		
<i>Papayas</i>		
<i>Higos</i>		
<i>Guayabas</i>		
<i>Melones</i>		
<i>Cebollas</i>		
<i>Almendras</i>		
<i>Ciruelas</i>		
<i>Papas</i>		
<i>Aguacates</i>		
<i>Esparragos</i>		
<i>Duraznos</i>		
<i>Uvas</i>		

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The first and last chapters are named with the same fruit- grapes. Why do you think the author chose to name these chapters the same title?
