

**Esperanza Rising**

**Pam Munoz Ryan**

**Reviewed by: Xitlalli Santiago, 16**

**Star Teen Book Reviewer of Be the Star You Are! Charity**

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Esperanza Rising was written by Pam Munoz Ryan. It follows Esperanza, a privileged, young girl that lives in Mexico with her family. After the untimely death of her father, Esperanza and her mother must flee to California, leaving behind everything she once knew. She flees, along with the family that worked for her and her family in Mexico. When they reach California, they have to work in a farm labor camp. Esperanza finds it hard to give up customs from her old life, making it hard to interact with those around her. However, when her mother gets sick and things are starting to threaten her new life, Esperanza must rise above everyone's preconceptions of her and fight for her mother and friends.

This is the first book where I saw myself represented as a girl from Mexico. I was in the 3rd grade when I first read this, and to be truthfully honest, it was the first book that started my love for reading. Pam was able to capture such a complex character and show how she was able to rise up from the tragedy and become a more mature person. I've read this book about 4 times and I can say that it still captures my attention every time.

This book is more geared towards middle schoolers. It has many themes and messages that would definitely resonate with them. I would also say that this is a book to get from the library. It may seem long, but it's pretty fast to get through. Like I said before, this is a book that everyone and their kids should read.

Other books to read:

"A Long Walk To Water," by Linda Sue Park

"Number The Stars," by Lois Lowry

"Holes," by Sharon M. Draper