



Esperanza Rising (2000), by Pam Muñoz Ryan Debatable Issues

Debatable Issue #1

Would Esperanza have been a better person if she had been allowed to stay with Ramona, her mother, on their estate in Aguascalientes after her father died?

Debatable Issue #2

Author Pam Muñoz Ryan has said in interviews that she was influenced in writing *Esperanza Rising* by the Latin American literary genre of “magical realism,” in which make-believe or magical events occur in otherwise realistic settings, usually to underline the significance of the moment in the story, or to develop a theme in the work. Which of the “magical moments” in the novel is the most important, both to the story and to the themes?

Debatable Issue #3

Marta and the other California farm-working strikers are shown in both a positive and a negative light in the novel. Does *Esperanza Rising* support or oppose the strikers, on balance?