

Instructional Overview

Esperanza Rising
By: Pam Muñoz Ryan
Grade Level: 5 / Guided Reading Level: V

Book Club

Instructional Focus:
Determining Theme

Background:
Understanding theme is key to thinking deeply about texts. Intermediate students are able to analyze symbolism, ideas, and social issues that are woven into literature. As students follow a plot, characters' responses to challenges help them relate the story to their own struggles, victories, and life experiences. Overall, understanding theme enables readers to think critically and more fully glean nuggets of wisdom from good literature.

Instructional Overview:

Meeting #1
Introduce Determining Theme, Model Routines, Set Expectations

Meeting #2
Determining Theme by Looking at Events and Characters' Responses

Meeting #3
Determining Theme by Looking for Messages

Meeting #4
One Word (Themes)

Meeting #5
Expand on the Word

Meeting #6
Picture the Theme

Meeting #7
Characters Change

Meeting #8
Tracking Changes in Characters

Meeting #9
Graphically Organizing Changes and Theme

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Instructional Focus



Description of the Instructional Focus



List of Materials and Preparation



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Instructional Overview (Continued):

Meeting #10
Learning Lessons from Others

Meeting #11
Characters Teach Us

Meeting #12
Theme Wrap-up

Final Meeting
Author's Notes and Book Sell

Materials and Preparation:

- Determine which students will participate in the *Esperanza Rising* Book Club (4-6 students)
- Gather copies of *Esperanza Rising* by Pam Muñoz Ryan (1 per student)
- Prepare copies of the Book Club Calendar (1 per student)
- Prepare copies of the Expectations for Book Club (1 per student)
- Prepare copies of the Book Club Reading Response Board (1 per student)
- Prepare Reader's Notebooks (1 per student)
 - These may be spiral notebooks or several sheets of lined paper stapled together, or bound in a folder.
- Optional: Prepare Vocabulary Resources (1 set per student)
- Optional: Prepare Student Self-Evaluation Forms (1 per student per meeting)
- Optional: Prepare Assessment Resources (1 set per student)

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