

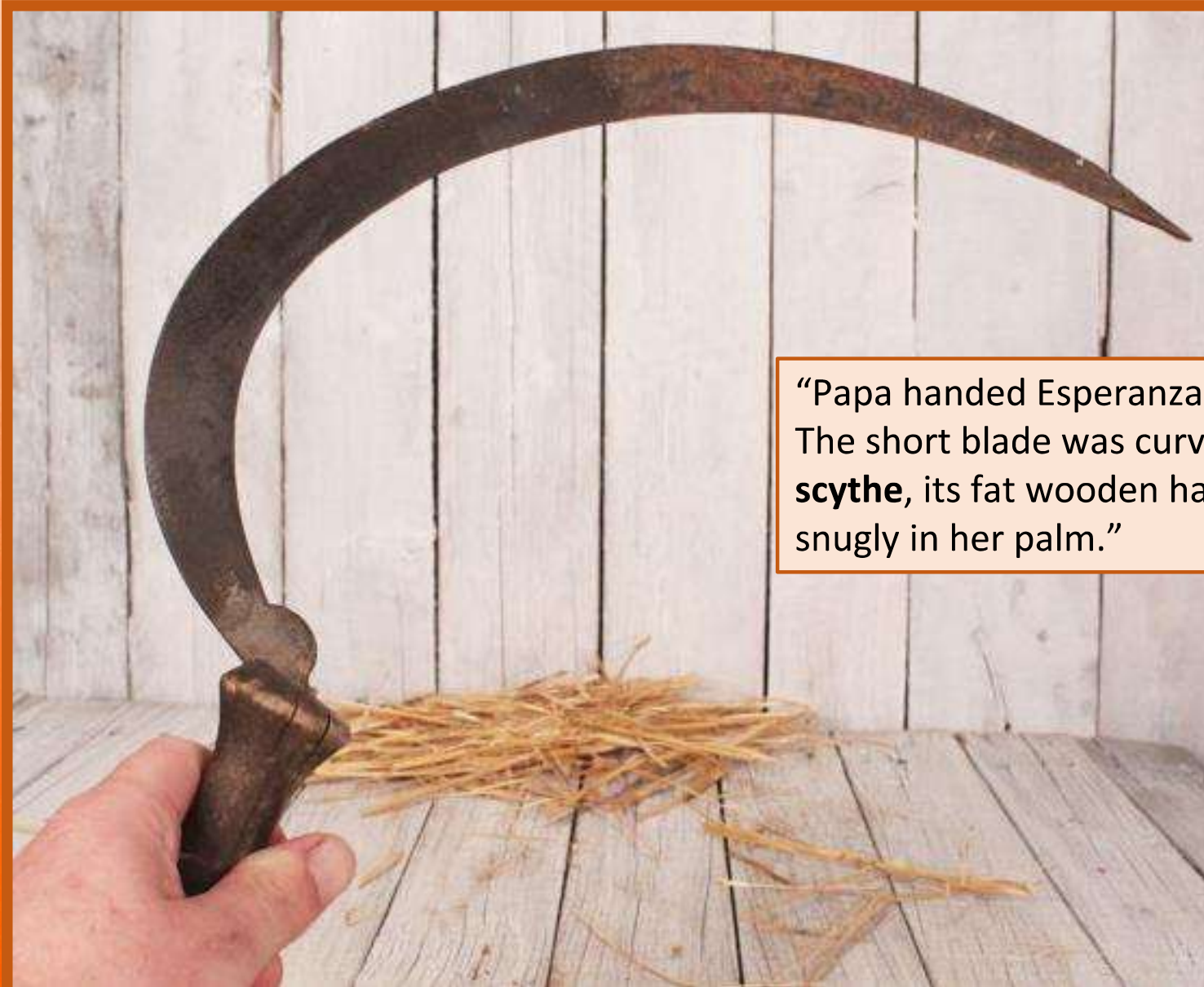
1924



Vineyard: a farm that grows grapes, usually for wine

Setting: a successful Mexican rancho in 1924

LAS UVAS ~ GRAPES

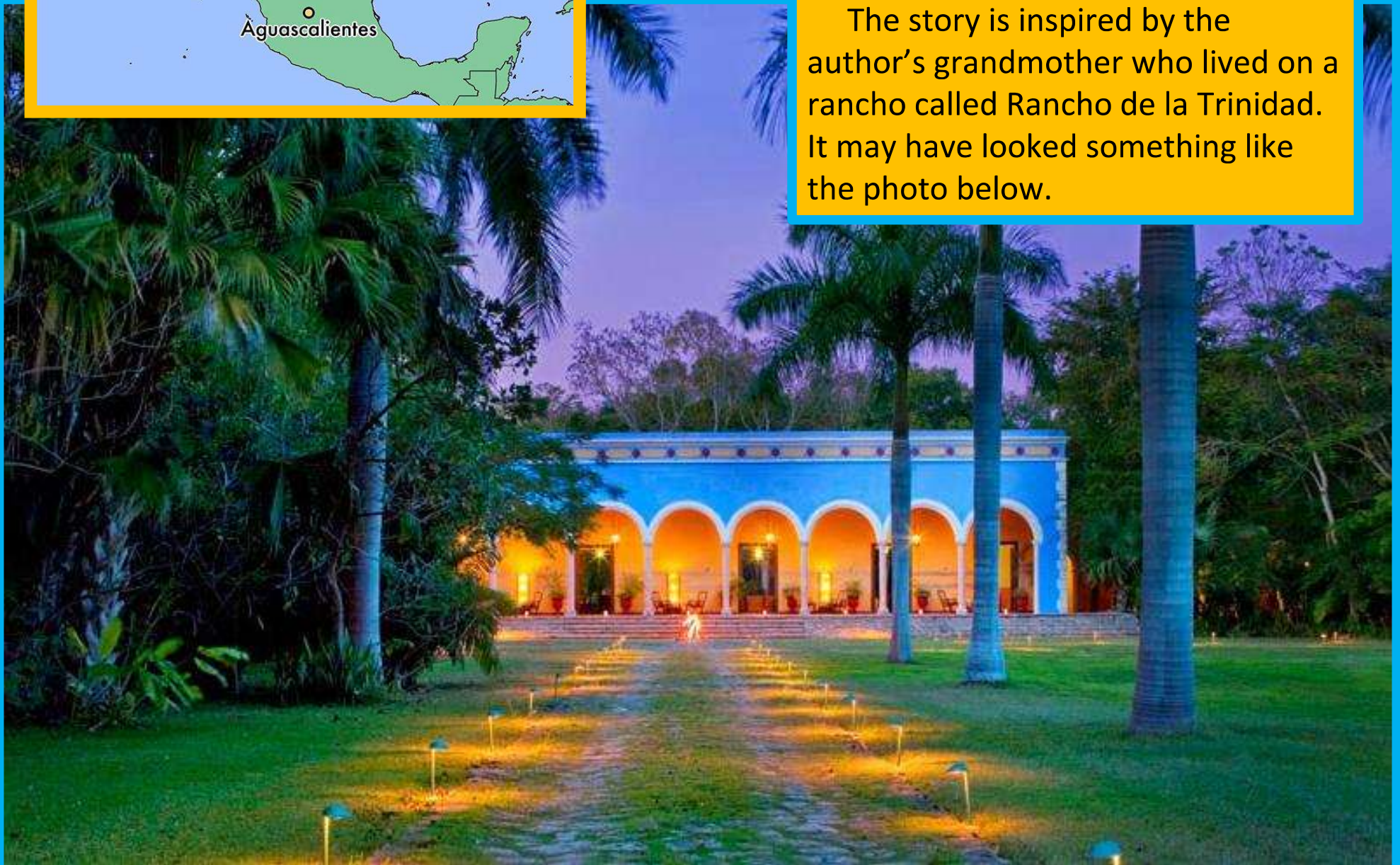


“Papa handed Esperanza the knife. The short blade was curved like a **scythe**, its fat wooden handle fitting snugly in her palm.”



Esperanza lived on El Rancho de las Rosas in Aguascalientes, Mexico. The name of her home means Ranch of the Roses.

The story is inspired by the author's grandmother who lived on a rancho called Rancho de la Trinidad. It may have looked something like the photo below.



Symbol: an object that stands for something else, like an idea or a feeling. Authors use symbols to add meaning to the story.

How do you know if the object is a symbol or just an object?

- There is general agreement that the object has a certain meaning, like the U.S. flag represents freedom.
- The object shows up more than once in the story.
- The object has deep meaning for a character.
- Colors, names, numbers and times of day can be symbolic.
- Characteristics of the object can point to deeper meaning. If a rose is a symbol of love, what do the thorns mean?





Campesinos

Spanish for farmers or field workers

Reap (v) pronounced reep

to harvest or cut and gather crops

*"...the field workers
...began the task of
reaping the fields."*



Vaqueros

Spanish for cowboys



Below: Famous painter Frida Kahlo (1907-1954) often wore her hair in the traditional braided crown .



Above: Traditional braided wreath hairstyle with modern makeup and accessories!

Which elegant character wears this regal hairstyle? What does it tell you about her?

“...and Papa, barely taller than Mama, his graying moustache twisted up at the sides.”



Which moustache most resembles Papa's?

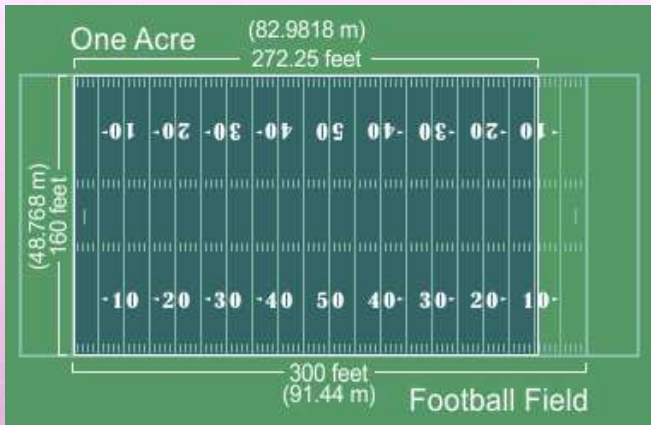
A **fiesta** is a party, celebration or festival.
What two events are the reason for the
upcoming Ortega fiesta?



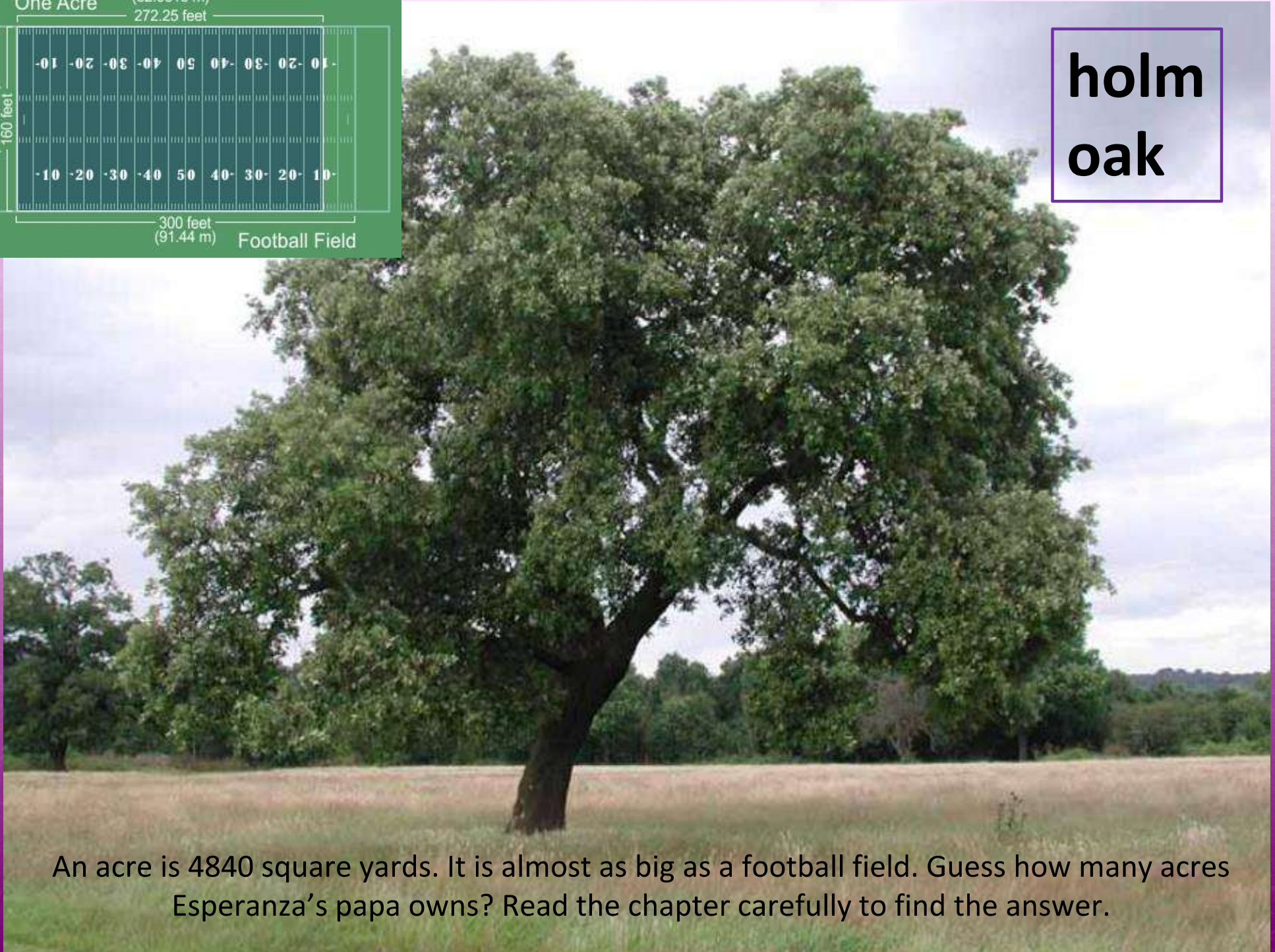


Quinceañeras are special celebrations for 15 year old girls honoring their transition to adulthood. Much like a wedding, there is a beautiful dress, attendants, dancing and a feast. For Catholics, it includes a religious ceremony.





**holm
oak**



An acre is 4840 square yards. It is almost as big as a football field. Guess how many acres Esperanza's papa owns? Read the chapter carefully to find the answer.

Foreshadow: to hint about future events in a story



All cultures have superstitions that people know about, even if they don't believe in it. Have you ever broken a mirror? What was the first thing that entered your mind? What happens to Esperanza that gives her a premonition or strong feeling that bad luck is on the way?

Sunset over the Sierra Madre mountains



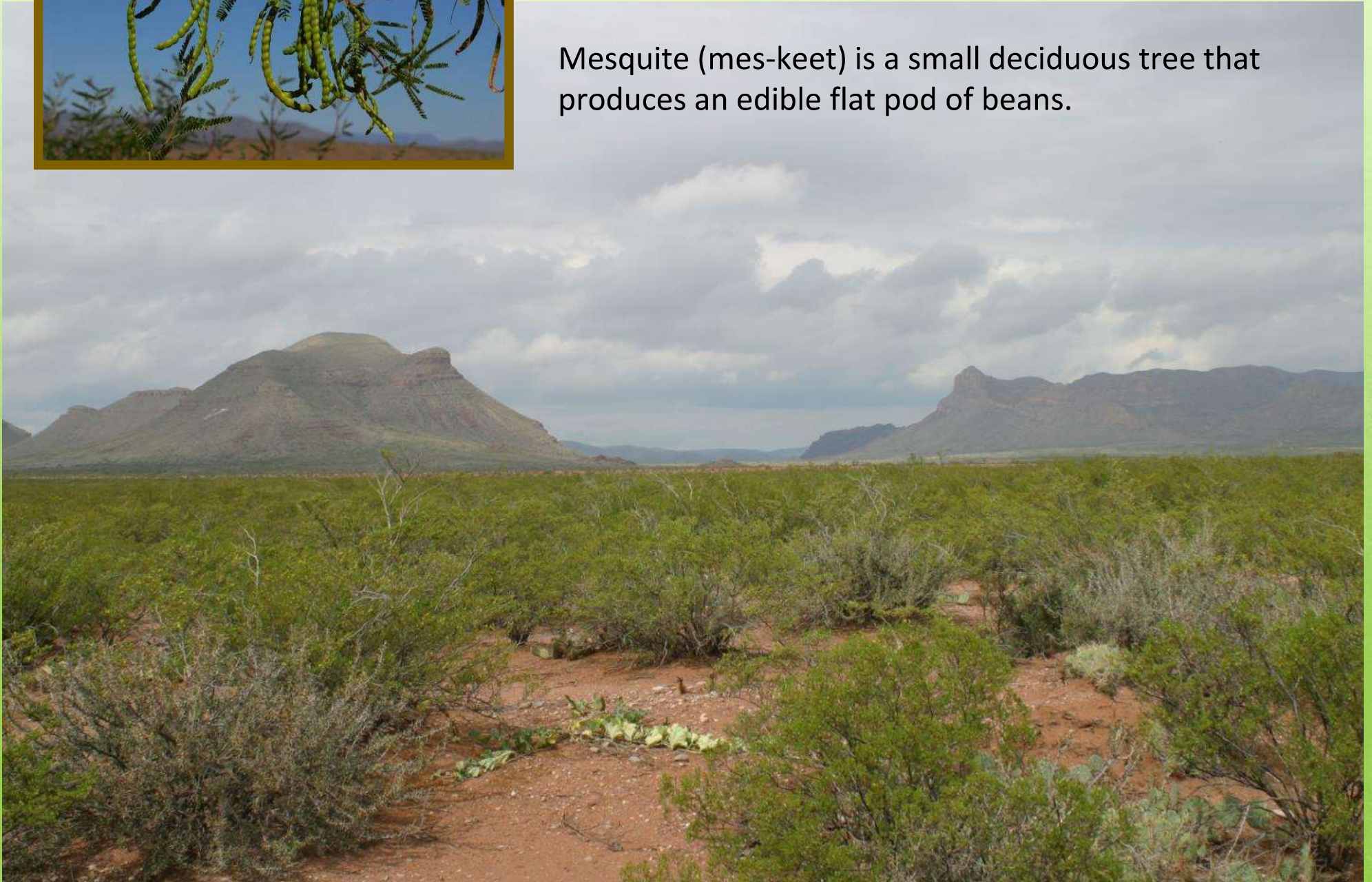
“Looking toward the horizon, she saw the last of the sun disappear behind the Sierra Madre.”

Like seasons, times of day can be symbols. If sunrise represents a time of rebirth, new beginnings or starting over, what could sunset symbolize?

Mesquite Grasslands



Mesquite (mes-keet) is a small deciduous tree that produces an edible flat pod of beans.





Serenade: a song performed outdoors in someone's honor



Las Mañanitas (the birthday song)

Wake my dear, wake up,
See it has already dawned
Already the birds are singing
And the moon has hidden itself.
How beautiful is this morning
As I come to greet you
We all come with affection
And pleasure to congratulate you.
The day you were born
All the flowers were born
And in the baptismal fountain
The nightingales did sing.
It is dawning
The light of day is shining on us
Get up in the morning
See that it has already dawned.

What gifts does Esperanza expect for her birthday?



algún día: for someday

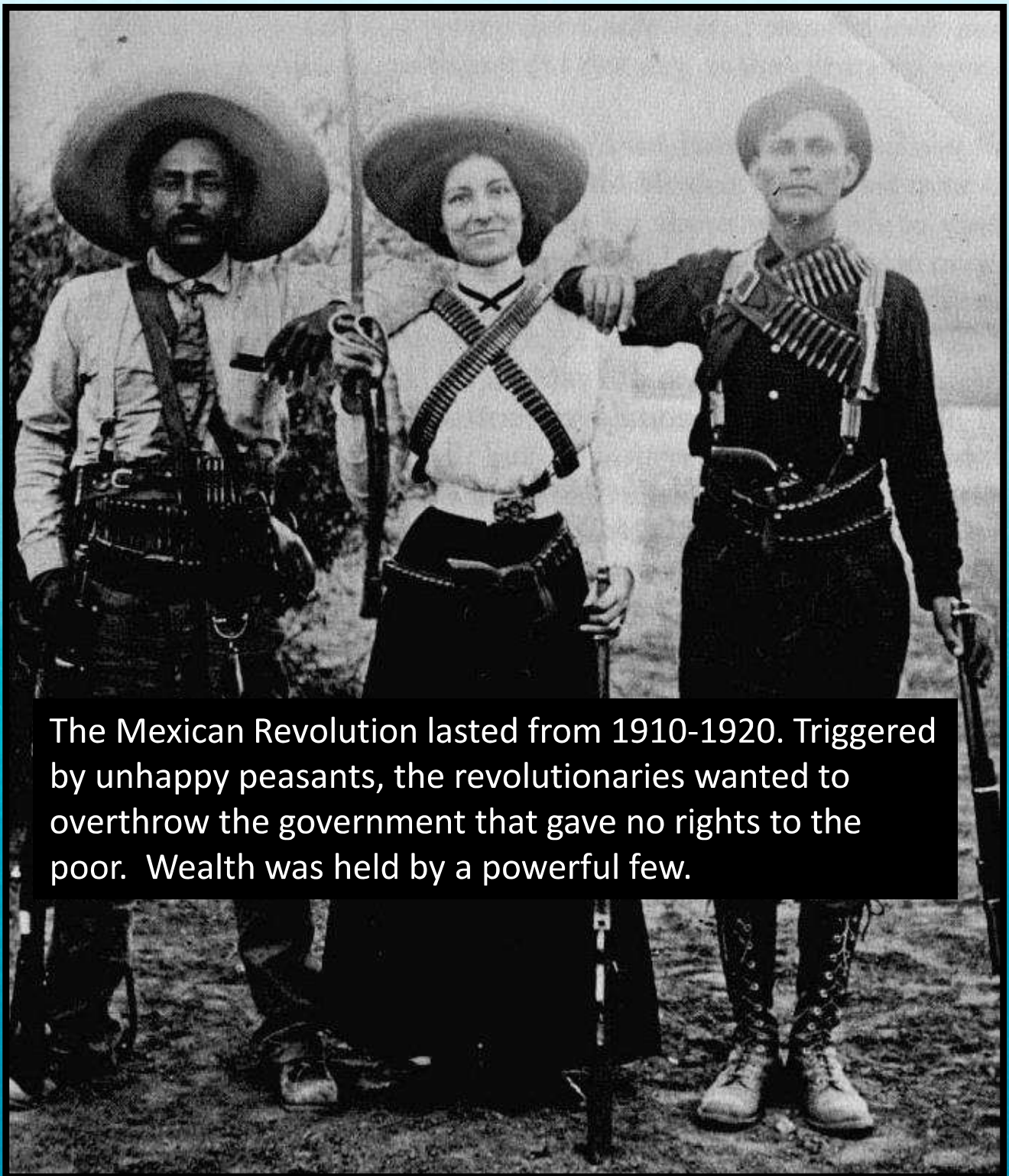
Patio: a paved outdoor area connected to the house. It may be covered or uncovered.

Stone fountain: the focal point of a patio or courtyard. Often large and beautiful, ornate fountains were a display of wealth.

Massive wooden gates: the gates would function as security and also indicate a rich home owner.

Adobe: Spanish architecture often used bricks made of straw and mud to build thick walls, which were then covered in plaster and painted. The walls kept homes cool in summer and warm in winter.





The Mexican Revolution lasted from 1910-1920. Triggered by unhappy peasants, the revolutionaries wanted to overthrow the government that gave no rights to the poor. Wealth was held by a powerful few.

Abuelita: Granny in Spanish

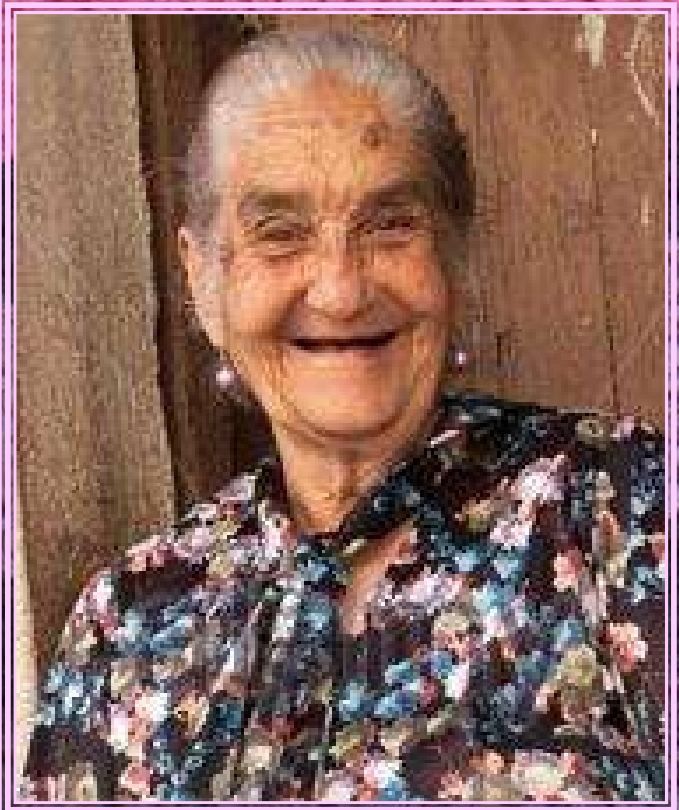
Crochet (crow-shay): a way of creating fabric by looping yarn with a hook

Zigzag: a “W” shaped pattern

Capricious: impulsive, unpredictable behavior

Propriety: appropriate, respectable behavior

Formal Tea: a fancy small meal where tea, tiny sandwiches and sweets are served



For
Formal
Tea



Lace-edged
handkerchief



Crochet
hook and
yarn

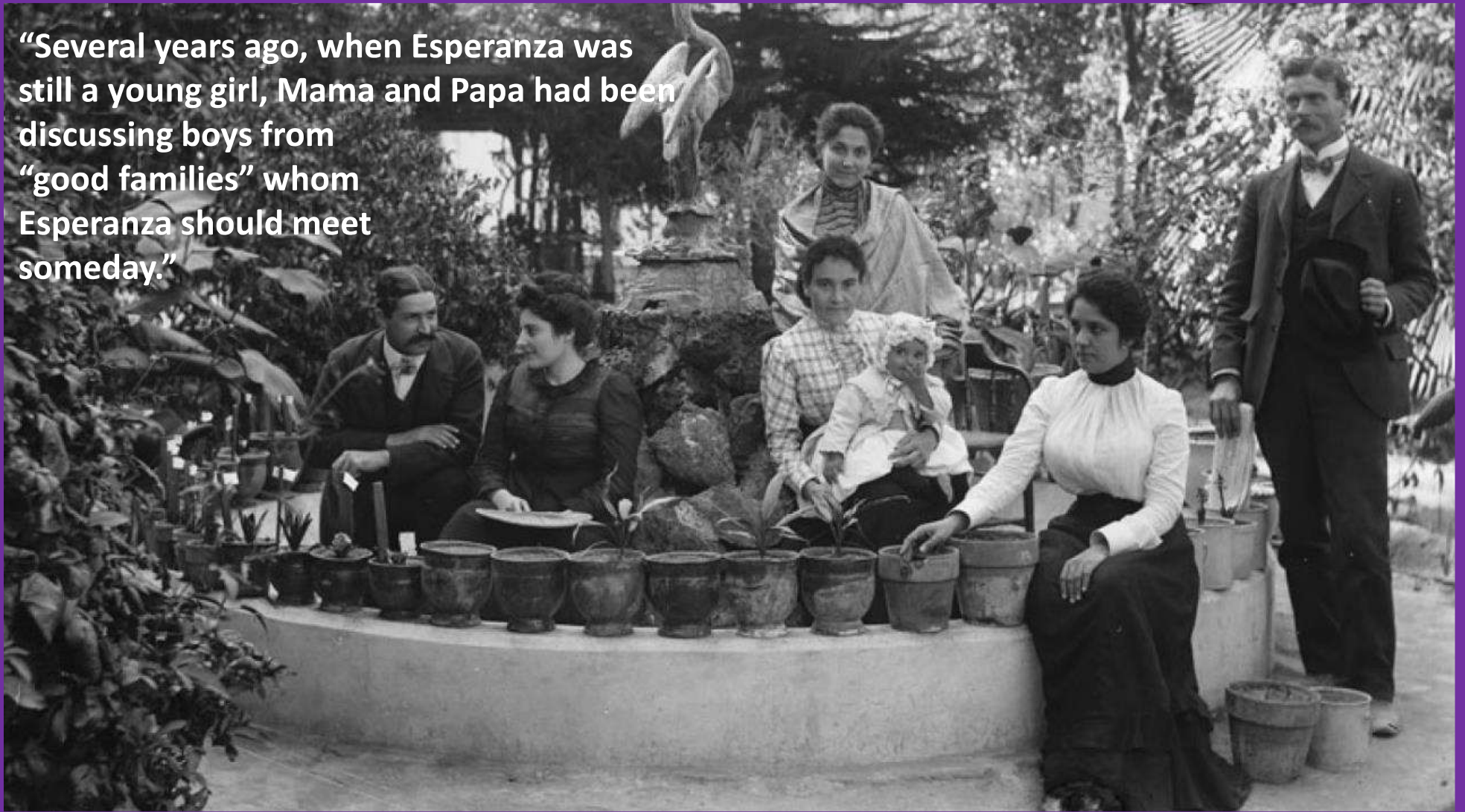


The Zapotec civilization was native or indigenous to the Mexican state of Oaxaca for at least 2,500 years. They were conquered by invading Spaniards. Many died. The majority of Zapotec were poor peasant farmers.

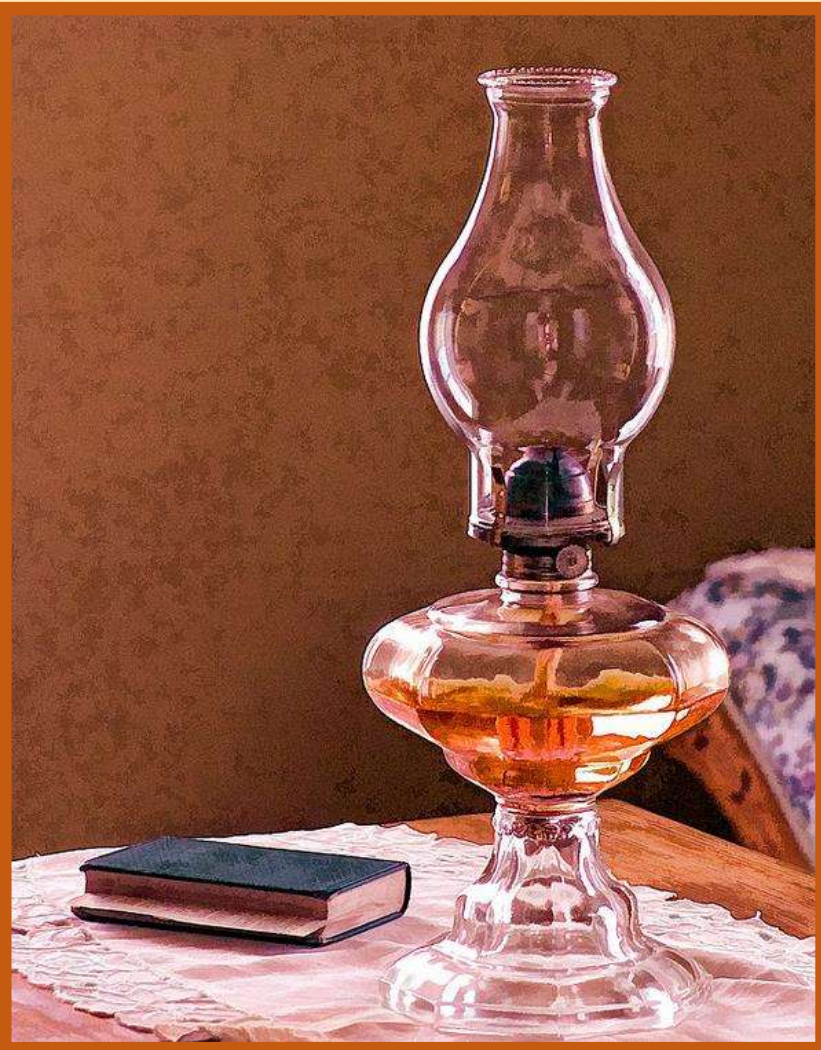


Hortencia was “a Zapotec Indian from Oaxaca, with a short, solid figure and blue-black hair in a braid down her back.”

“Several years ago, when Esperanza was still a young girl, Mama and Papa had been discussing boys from “good families” whom Esperanza should meet someday.”



Mama and Papa are talking about their own social class when they refer to “good families.” Upper class, middle class, and lower class are categories that are very important in some cultures and time periods and not so important in others. Depending on the country, social class is determined by wealth, education, occupation, birth and race. What social class is Esperanza? What about Miguel?



Oil lamps like the one above were used for lighting before homes had electricity.

Tile is a traditional floor material in Spanish architecture.





Papa's silver belt buckle was one-of-a-kind. Like these modern belt buckles, Papa's was engraved with the brand of the ranch. A brand is a symbol burned onto livestock like cattle to identify the owner.





Candles are an important part of many Catholic rituals. Lighting a candle is a sacred action that symbolizes the light of Jesus Christ. In *Esperanza Rising*, Abuelita and Hortensia light candles and say prayers for Papa's safe return.



Tallow is made from beef fat.



On a cattle ranch, tallow is abundant. Tallow candles don't melt too quickly. A stub is the last bit of the candle.



Silver Candelabra

It wasn't until the candelabra held nothing but short stubs of tallow that Mama finally said, "I see a lantern. Someone is coming!"

Comprehension Questions – Las Uvas Grapes

1. How old was Esperanza in 1924?
2. What country does Esperanza live in?
3. What is the name of the ranch where Esperanza lives?
4. What crop is grown on the ranch?
5. What are the names of Esperanza's parents?
6. What event is Esperanza looking forward to?
7. Who is Abuelita?
8. Who is Miguel?