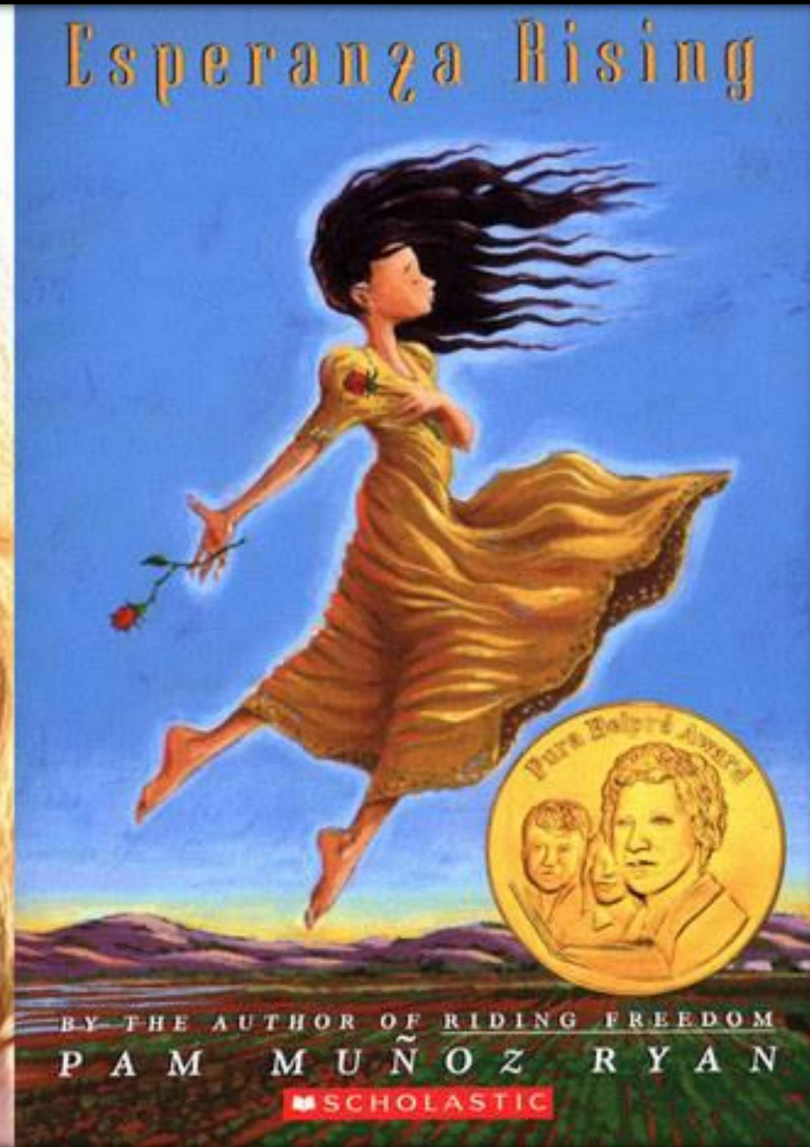


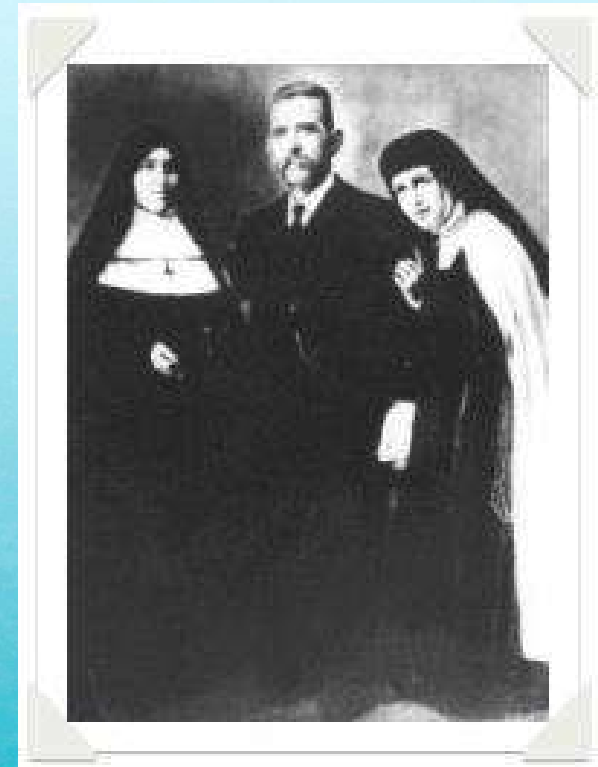
Author's Note



Author Pam Muñoz Ryan



Esperanza Rising is a novel, a work of fiction. The author Pam Munoz Ryan was inspired by true events and people when writing the imaginary story. Although the characters Esperanza, Sixto, and Ramona were based on her family, they are still fictional. Don't get confused because they have the same names! Still, it is fun to see the real people and places that inspired the story!



Above: Sixto Ortega, Esperanza's father, with his sisters who were nuns at a nearby convent



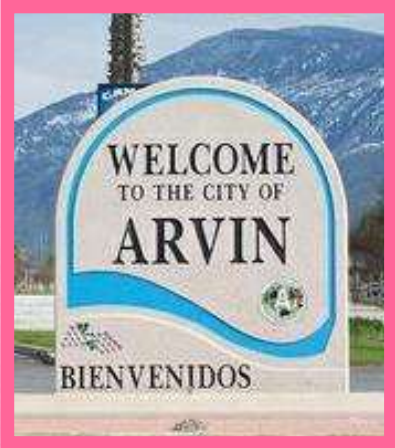
Above: Esperanza Muñoz at age 19



The real Esperanza was the author's grandmother. Above left, she poses for her wedding day portrait with her husband Jesús who inspired the character, Miguel.

The fictional El Rancho de las Rosas was modeled after the author's great-grandparents' actual ranch in Aguascalientes, Mexico called El Rancho de la Trinidad. The map shows Esperanza's journey and the photo is an aerial view of the rancho today.





The author's grandmother, the real Esperanza, worked here at a big company farm in Arvin, California.

This is the actual house where the author's grandparents, Esperanza and Jesús, raised their kids. Located in Bakersfield, California, it was built in 1926. The bungalow has two bedrooms and one bathroom. It is 918 square feet. Notice how big the trees are in front. Do you think Esperanza planted them?

