



Esperanza Rising

Pam Muñoz Ryan



Las Papayas

What is special about papayas to Esperanza?

Papayas are a tropical fruit usually eaten raw. The skin and seeds are not ingested.



Tears running down his round cheeks

Mama fainted

Felt her heart drop

Breath of grief

Tormented cry

Dark hole of despair and disbelief

Wrenched

Her chest tightened

Heavy blanket of anguish

Smothered her smallest joy

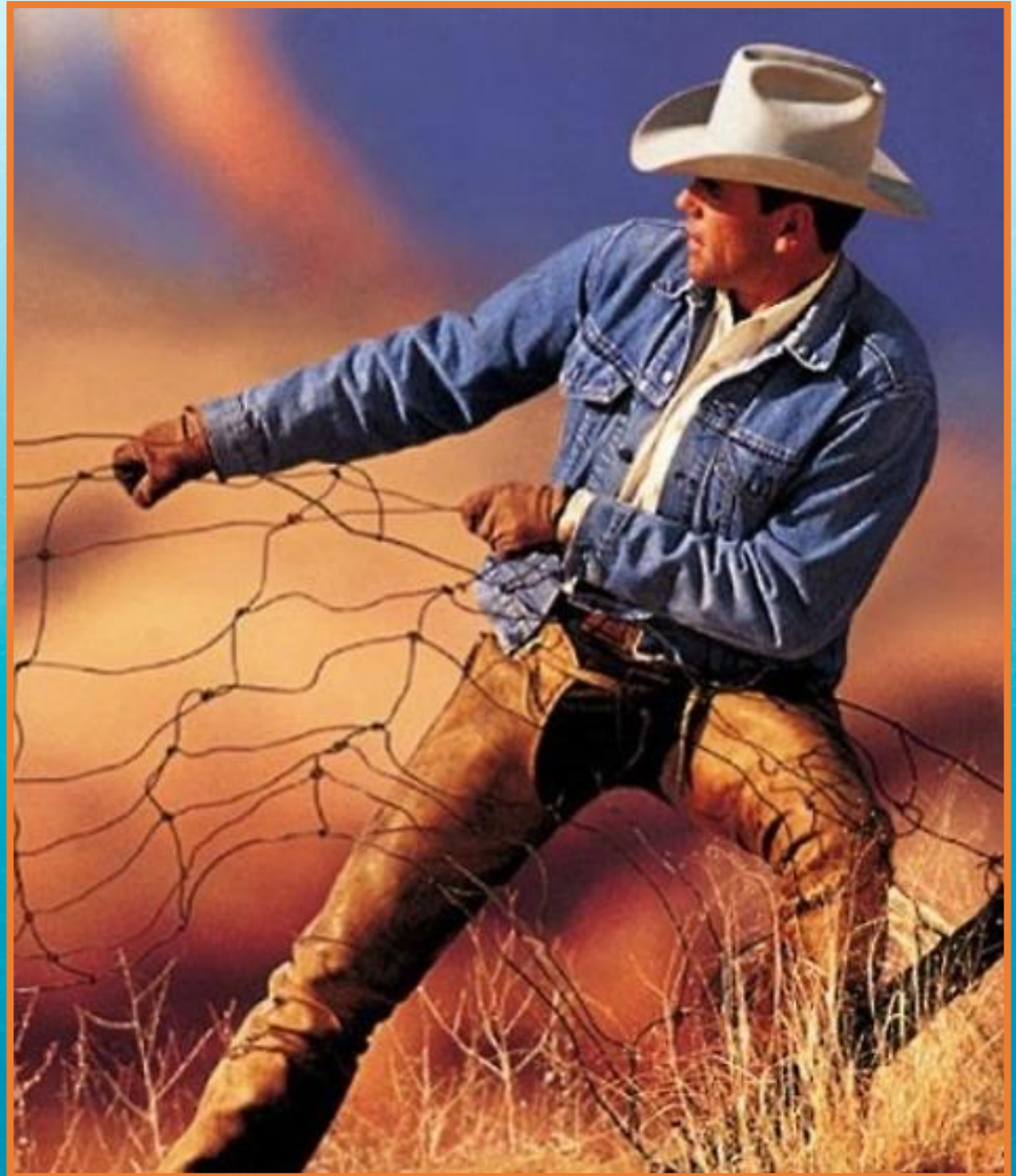


Sometimes an author will show the reader what is happening through actions, sounds, smells, visual and physical clues and emotions.

What has happened?

On a ranch with thousands of acres, a big job is keeping fences repaired. Fences are important for keeping livestock from wandering off and for marking property lines.

What happened to Papa while he was out with the vaqueros “mending a fence on the farthest reaches of the ranch”?



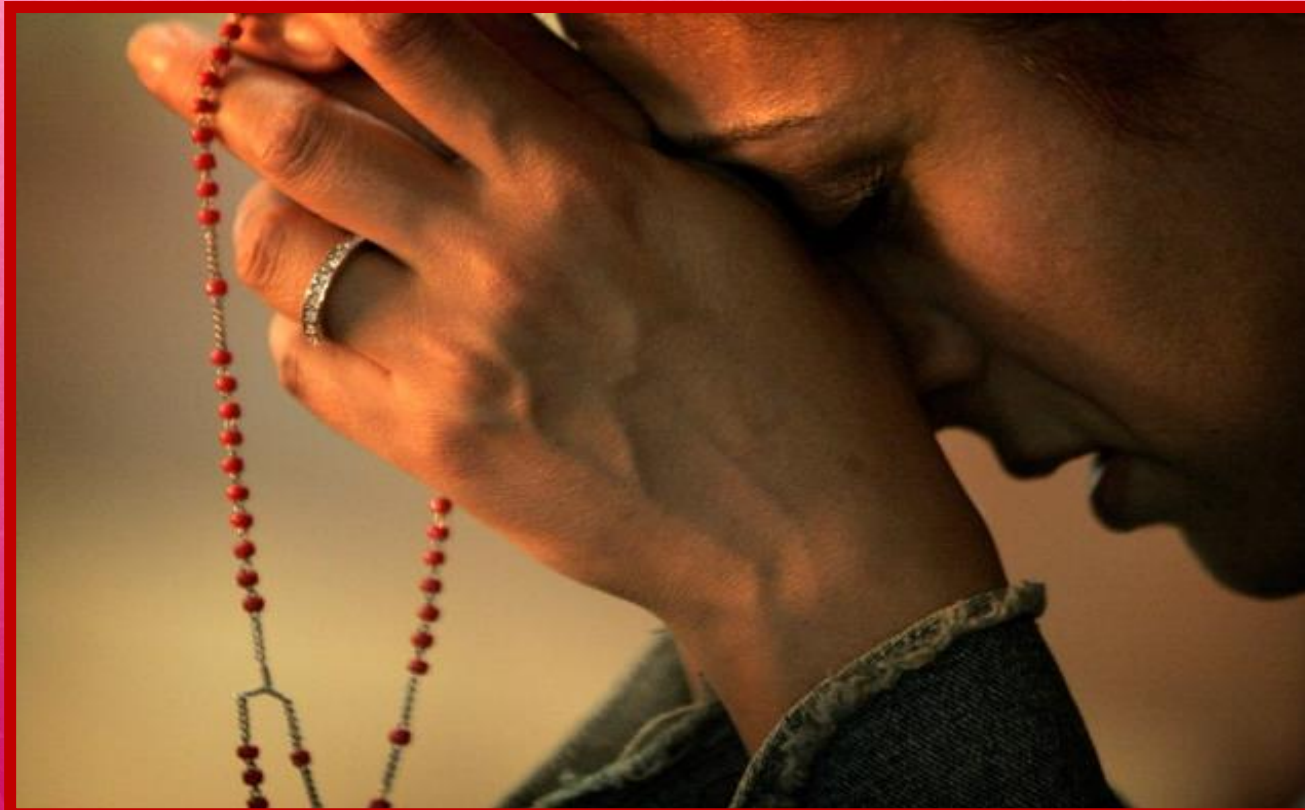
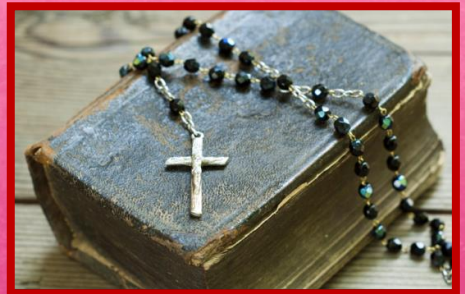
**Ambush: A surprise attack
from a hidden position**



“The rosaries, masses, and funeral lasted three days.”

Rosaries are prayer beads which are used to count and recite prayers. A **mass** is a Catholic religious ceremony and a **funeral** is a burial ceremony.

Condolences is an offer of sympathy from friends and family. When people **“pay their respects,”** they visit or attend church services in honor of the deceased person.



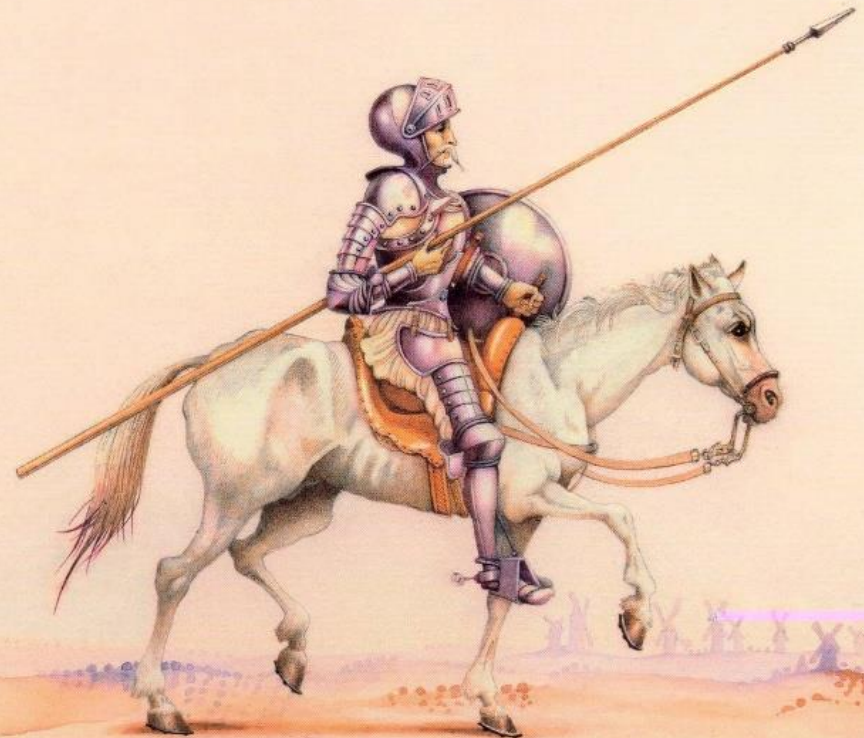
***Don Quixote* is a famous novel by Miguel de Cervantes. In English, we spell the character's name with an "x," but it is pronounced the same: Key-HO-tay. La Mancha is the area of Spain where he lives.**

In the story, Don Quixote is a low-ranking nobleman who loves tales of knights in shining armor, royalty, fairy tale castles and chivalry.

He becomes so caught up in his fantasies that he begins to believe he is a heroic knight. He wildly tries to right wrongs...that aren't wrong at all. He attacks windmills which he thinks are ferocious giants.

MIGUEL DE CERVANTES

Don Quijote de la Mancha



Versión de Vicente Muñoz Puelles
Ilustraciones de Manuel Boix

AlgaR
EDITORIAL



**Squash plants
encroaching into
the yard**

**To encroach means
to take over
another's possessions
or rights**

The author uses a simile (a comparison using "like" or "as") to compare the uncles to the squash plant. Why do you think she does this? Make predictions about Tio Luis and Marco.

Indignation

(noun)

Anger or
annoyance
provoked by
what is
perceived as
unfair
treatment



“A look of indignation passed between Mama and Abuelita.”

What is going on to cause this look between the two women? How are Esperanza’s uncles encroaching into their lives and home? What is significant about Papa’s belt buckle? What does the belt buckle symbolize or represent?

Words used to describe the uncles:

- **devious** (sneaky in a deceitful way)
- **corrupt** (willing to break or bend the rules to benefit oneself)
- **pretentious** (showing off wealth, power, or possessions to impress others)
- **vulture** (a person who swoops in to benefit from the death or loss of another)



Vultures scavenge for food rather than kill it themselves. They are not picky eaters. They like to feast on the remains of dead animals.

Keep track of all the ways roses are mentioned in the novel. Even a rosary translates as “garland of roses.” Think about what roses symbolize now...and later.



Comprehension Questions Las Papayas

1. Why does Esperanza feel anguish at the beginning of the chapter?
2. What do the papayas remind her of?
3. What is the last gift Papa would ever give Esperanza?
4. How does Esperanza feel about the uncles? Why?
5. Who inherits the house? Who inherits the land?
6. Why does Tio Luis want to marry Ramona?
7. Why has Alfonso and Miguel lost faith in their country?
8. What is the servants' plan? Why?