



Esperanza Rising

A novel by Pam Munoz Ryan

Visual Text Support

- Historical & Cultural Context
- Vocabulary & Literary Terms
- Comprehension Questions & Answers

Over 130 Slides!

Los Melones ~ Cantaloupes



The land was dry and the panorama was barren except for date palms, cactus, and the occasional squirrel or roadrunner.



Date palm



Roadrunner



132238

S. Luis Potosi, S.L.P.

SERVICIO DE MIGRACION

REGISTRO DE EXTRANJEROS

NUM. 132238

85185

SE EXPIDE... EL 16 DE marzo DE 1940

A SHAPIRO CWILICH, Ana

CUYA LEGAL ESTANCIA EN MEXICO QUEDA COMPROBADA CON ESTA TARJETA.

MEDIA FILIACION DEL INTERESADO

CONSTITUCION FISICA... regular
ESTATURA 1.56 cms. COLOR blanco
PELO castaño claro CEJAS pobladas
OJOS azules NARIZ rectilinia
MENTON bilobulado BIGOTE
BARBA
SEÑAS PARTICULARES ningunas



DATOS COMPLEMENTARIOS

EDAD 16 AÑOS FECHA EN QUE NACIO junio 19-1924
ESTADO CIVIL soltera PROFESION, OFICIO U
OCUPACION estudiante
IDIOMA NATIVO polaco OTROS IDIOMAS
QUE HABLA español
LUGAR Y PAIS EN QUE NACIO S. Luis Potosi, S.L.P.

NACIONALIDAD ACTUAL polaca
RELIGION israelita RAZA blanca
LUGAR DE RESIDENCIA San Luis Potosi S.L.P.
NOMBRE Y DOMICILIO EN MEXICO DE PERSONAS QUE PUEDAN DAR REFERENCIAS DEL INTERESADO Manuel Pérez-Allende
108- San Luis Potosi S.L.P.

Handwritten signature of Ana Shapiro Cwilich

(FIRMA DEL PORTADOR)

Quien entro en Mexico por Veracruz, Ver.
EL 7 DE febrero de 1927

P. EL JEFE DEL DEPARTAMENTO DEMOGRAFICO

(FIRMA DEL FUNCIONARIO DE MIGRACION)

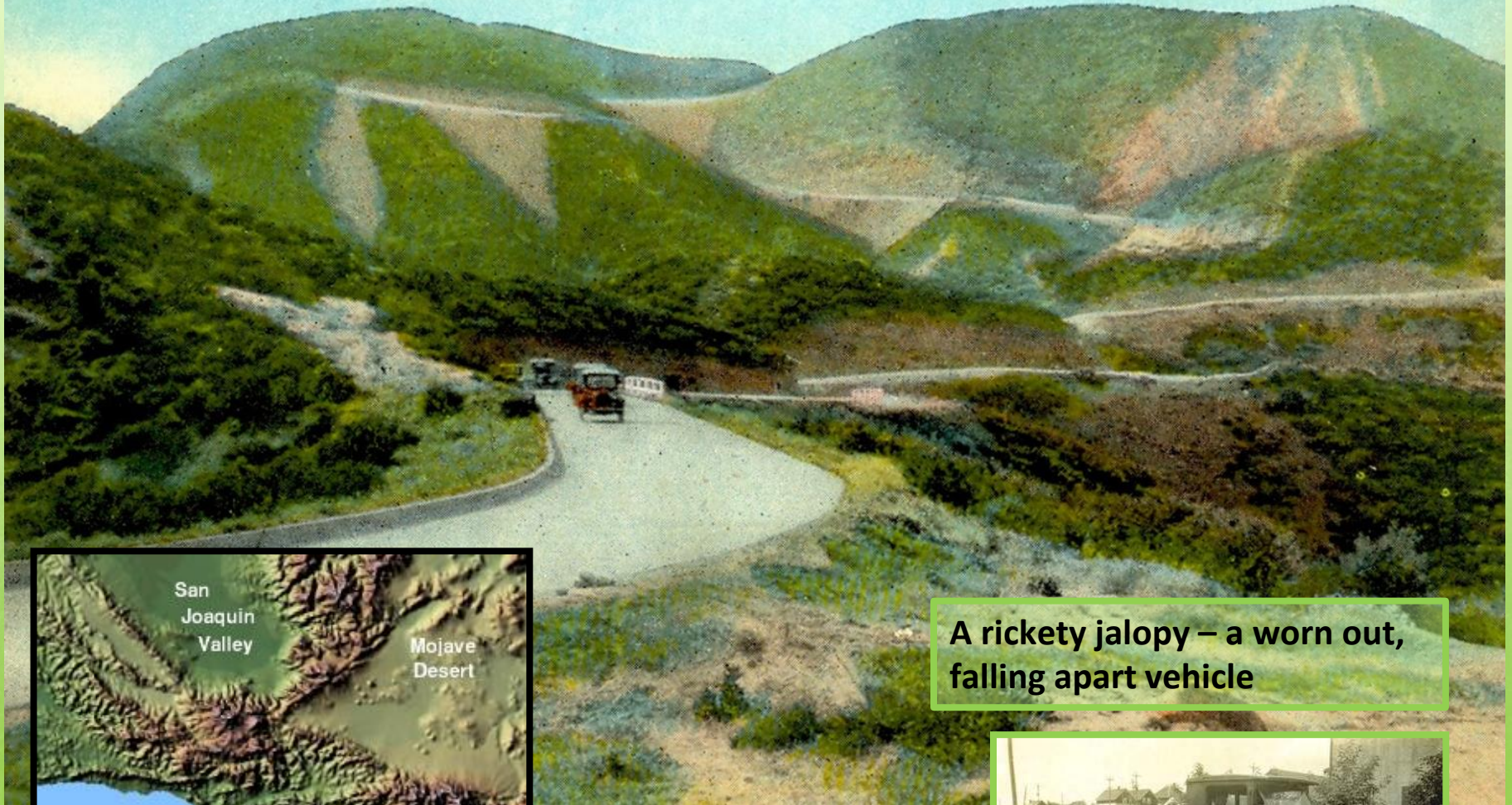
- Stagnant - stuffy, uncirculated
Perspiration- sweat
Wilt - droop
Papers - official documents
Demeanor - outward behavior
Mexican National- citizen
Prodded- poked, pushed along





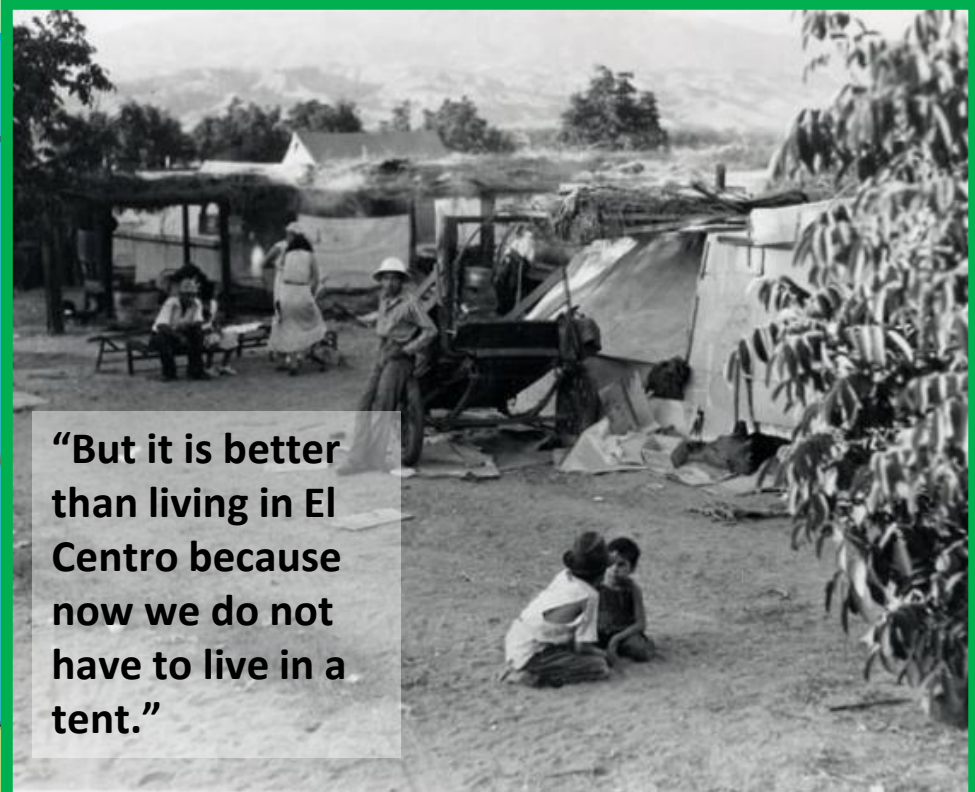
What does Esperanza notice about Los Angeles?

This is the exact road Esperanza traveled as the jalopy climbed out of the San Fernando Valley.



A rickety jalopy – a worn out, falling apart vehicle





“But it is better than living in El Centro because now we do not have to live in a tent.”

The average farm worker made \$21 a month. The shack with a kitchen, piped-in cold water and electricity cost \$7 a month.



Red-tailed hawk



A sparse, dry canyon

Arroyo
A steep gully cut by running water in a dry region

Vast sky
Dizzying swirls
Floating and drifting
Lifted higher
Untethered and frightened
Anchored
Falling
Careening through the hot air
Floating above the earth
Staccato breaths
Heaving in and out
Ripe tears cascade

Often associated with Latin American authors, **magical realism** is a type of fiction or genre where magical elements coexist in a realistic setting. It is always serious, usually unexplained, and offers a deeper understanding of the characters.

Notice how the phrases above sound poetic? What kind of experience do you think Esperanza is having?

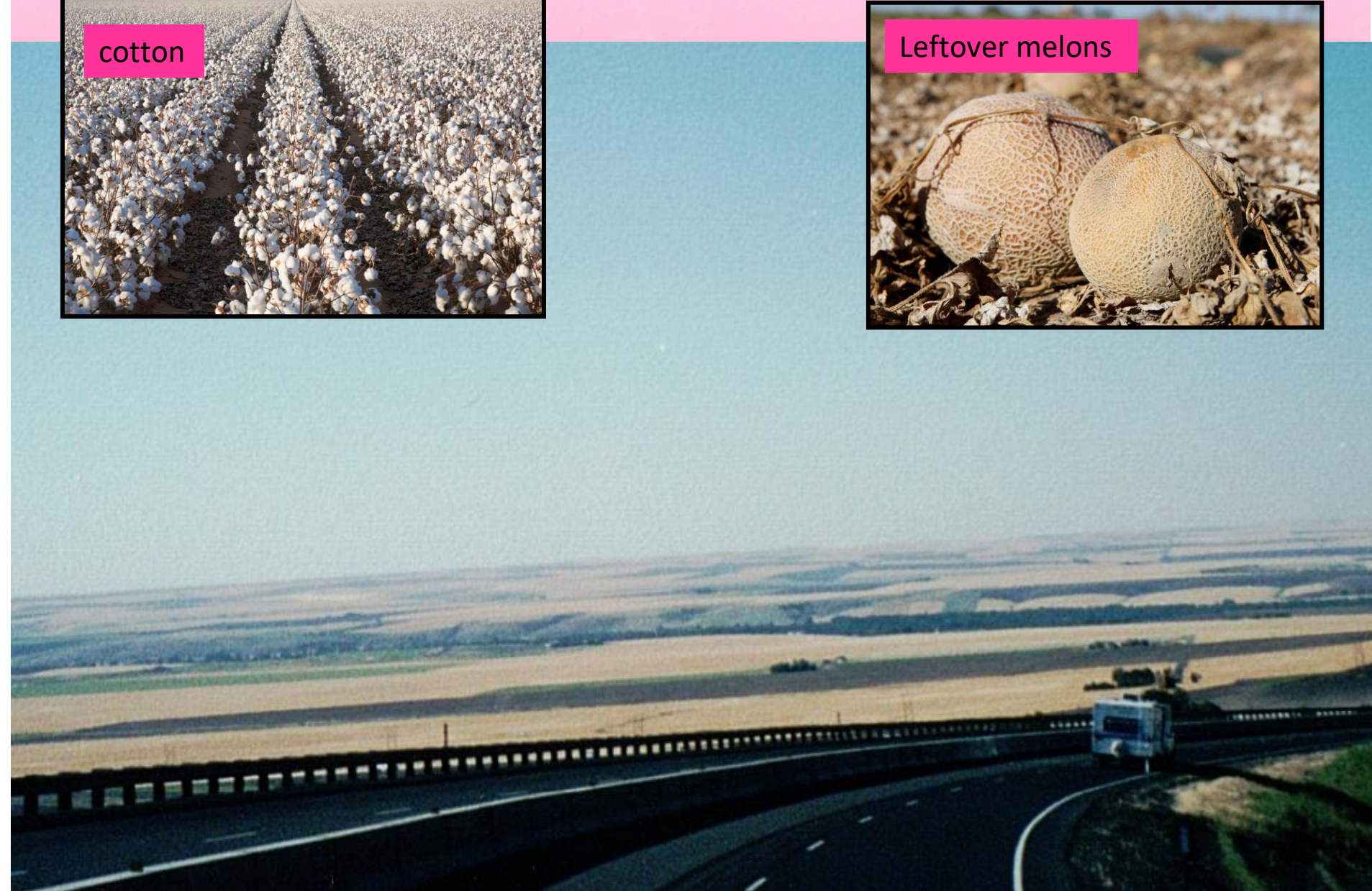




cotton



Leftover melons



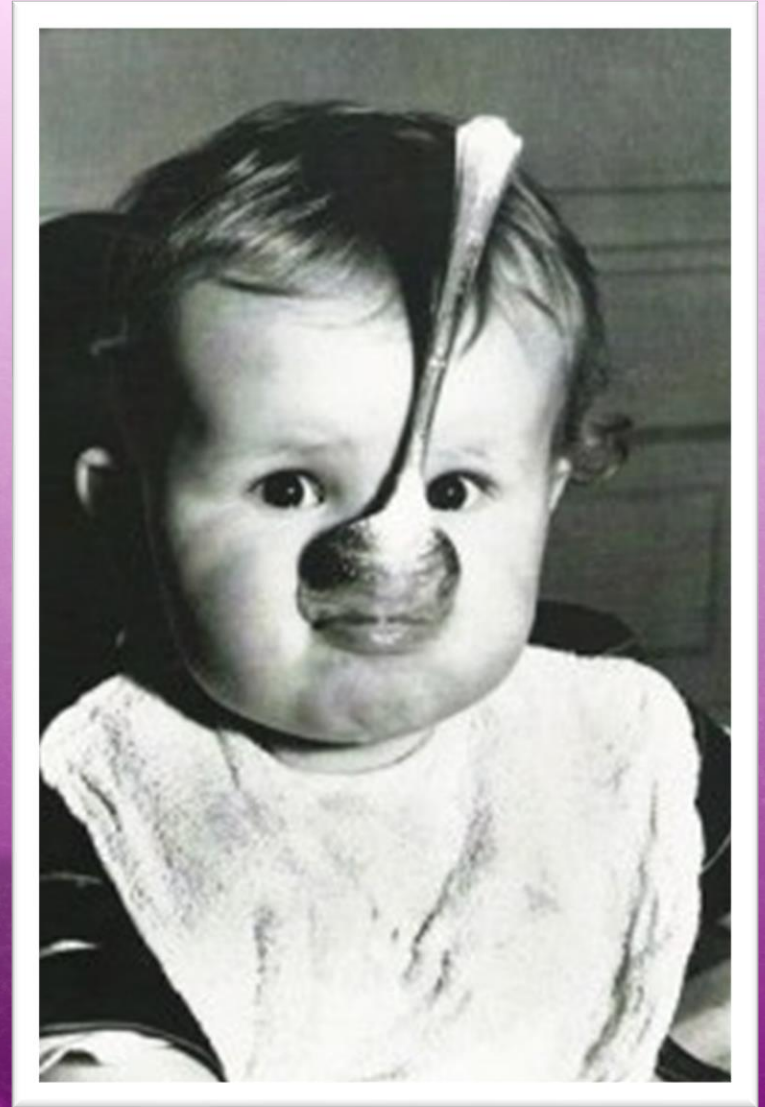
Descending into the San Joaquin Valley

An idiom is a phrase that does not make sense if taken literally, but its meaning is generally understood by most speakers in that culture.

To be “born with a silver spoon in your mouth” or to have it stuck in your mouth refers to someone who is born into wealth and privilege. He or she inherited their money rather than earned it.

The phrase comes from an old custom of giving newborn babies of wealthy families a silver spoon as a gift.

Predict which character is accused of having a silver spoon stuck in her mouth. Is this a compliment or insult? Why would someone make this kind of remark?





Filipinos



"Okies" from Oklahoma



Japanese

Migrant
Farm
Workers
1930s

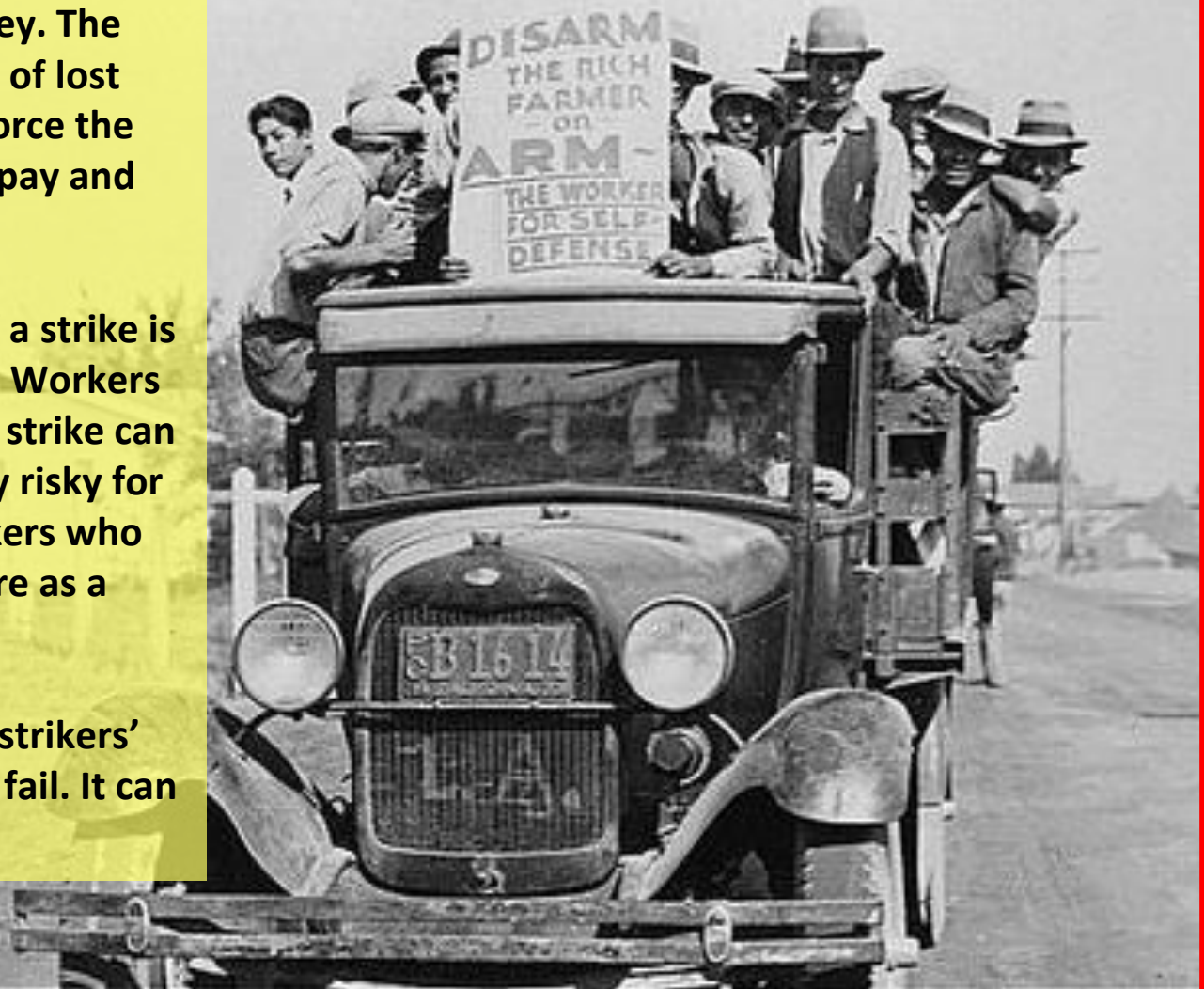


Mexicans

When workers get together or organize a plan to not show up at work, it is called a strike. When no work gets done, like fruit picking, the employer loses money. The workers hope the threat of lost revenue or money will force the employer to give better pay and conditions.

Sometimes the threat of a strike is enough. Sometimes not. Workers who strike get no pay. A strike can last a long time. It is very risky for workers. The more workers who join, the stronger they are as a group.

If new workers take the strikers' jobs, then the strike will fail. It can get violent.



A decorative border with a double-line black outline. It features stylized floral motifs at the corners: top-left and bottom-right have three teardrop shapes pointing outwards, while top-right and bottom-left have three teardrop shapes pointing inwards.

Comprehension Questions for *Los Melones*

1. What happens in Mexicali that is so important to the travelers' future?
2. Who are the members of Alfonso's family?
3. How does Isobel unknowingly insult Esperanza?
4. What happens when Esperanza tries to hear the heartbeat of the earth?
5. What is the name of the vast, flat region where much of the nation's crops are grown?
6. Who is Marta? Do you like her? Why or why not?
7. What is a strike?