***Esperanza Rising* Literature Circles**

**Chapters 9 & 10—“Las Ciruelas” and “Las Papas”**

**Assignments:**

**Discussion Director:** Your job is to come up with 5 thought-provoking questions. Be sure to write down your questions, the answers to your questions, and the page numbers where the answers can be located or supported with specifics.

Types of Questions to Look for:

1 compare/contrast question

1 problem/solution question

2 fact questions (basic fact questions from the novel)

**Passage Picker:** Your job is to choose 4 passages that enable your group to really engage in a discussion about that specific section/passage. The following types of passages are ones you will want to find.

Write down their page #, the paragraph #, and give an explanation of why the passage you chose is of the selected type. In other words, why did you choose the passage?

Then, write a FAT question about the passage and answer either: Why did the author include this passage? Or What does this passage add to the story?

Types of passage to find for this section:

1 descriptive passage (include imagery and/or sensory details)

1 passage with dialect

1 passage with a problem/solution

1 passage that shows step-by-step processing

**Historian:** Your job is to examine an outside source (newspaper article, web site, encyclopedia, etc.) that have connections to the novel being read and share the information with the group. Share at least 2 interesting facts you learned from your source. Make connections to the novel (if possible).

Study: Valley Fever

**If There is a Fourth Group Member:**

**Character Sketcher**: Your job is to write down 3 character traits of **Esperanza**. Include the page, paragraph number, and an explanation or proof of the traits. Next, you need to state the character’s goal, problem, and solution or possible solution. Identify an object that represents this character (it can be an animal or a place or a thing). Draw a picture of this item and give solid evidence why this object is symbolic.

Who are the other characters we’ve been introduced to? Write 1-sentence descriptions of these characters.

**ALL TOGETHER (after reading):**

Your job is to:

1. Identify the setting of the novel—give details of time and place that might have changed
2. Identify the conflicts you have seen in the novel so far—internal and external (man vs. man, man vs. nature, man vs. animal, man vs. himself, man vs. society, present vs. future or vs. past).
3. Summarize in 3-4 sentences what has happened in each of these chapters.
4. In the novel, it mentions that workers were willing to pick cotton for $ .05 and $ .06 per pound. How much cotton would they have to pick to make $1.00, $5.00. How much does a bag of cotton balls weigh?
5. Check out the photos on these websites. Which ones seem to be like the work camp of Esperanza and the other characters? Why do you think so? Give support.

[Farm Labor Camps](http://newdeal.feri.org/library/browse_projects.cfm?SubCatID=1080&CatID=20&ProjCatID=10367)   
http://newdeal.feri.org/library/browse\_projects.cfm?SubCatID=1080&CatID=20&ProjCatID=10367

[Migrant Camps](http://newdeal.feri.org/library/browse_photos.cfm?ProjCatID=10370&CatID=20&subCatID=1081)   
<http://newdeal.feri.org/library/browse_photos.cfm?ProjCatID=10370&CatID=20&subCatID=1081>

Migrant Camps

http://www.loc.gov/pictures/related/?q=Migrant%20camps--California&fi=subjects&co=fsa

**Writing Option:**

Write an I Am poem for the character of Esperanza. Using the format on <http://home.jps.net/~gailhd/crossing/esperanza/poemformat.htm>, include the following:

First Stanza:

* Information and thoughts about Esperanza's life in Mexico
* Information and thoughts about Esperanza's family
* Information and thoughts about the Mexican Revolution

Second Stanza:

* Information and thoughts about Esperanza's life in the migrant camp
* Information and thoughts about the Great Depression
* Information and thoughts about her life as a Mexican farm laborer

Third Stanza

* Esperanza's personal setbacks
* Her growth as a character
* Her sources of strength and encouragement

Scoring Guide: <http://home.jps.net/~gailhd/crossing/esperanza/scorepoem.htm>