

West Elementary  
Glenwood, Iowa

Dear Pam Ryan,

Your book showed me the importance of family. I learned that when you are poor, little things have great value. We all need things like food, water, shelter, warmth, family, and friends. Most of us take these things granted each day, but now I know some people can't afford these necessities.

I value my family more than ever, and it was because of **Esperanza Rising**. It is terrible when someone you love dies, but I cannot imagine how difficult it is when your father is killed on your birthday. It is hard when a family is torn apart by sickness or death. Esperanza was brave, and did her best to keep her family together. This showed me that even in times of trouble, a family must stand strong.

It really surprised me when Esperanza found Marta hiding behind the crates. I thought she would have been taken away with the other strikers. The book was filled with hidden secrets ready to jump out and confuse you. Her uncles were another thing that surprised me. They were so filled with hatred and greed.

This book inspired me to help those less fortunate and unhappy. I feel that this book shows young readers about a life of poverty and suffering and it inspires them to do great things.

In conclusion this book showed me about love, compassion, and suffering in a family. It really showed how families have needs, no matter how strong their relationship.

Sincerely,

Sarah Hubner