

Horizon Elementary  
Johnston, Iowa

Dear Pam Munoz Ryan,

I used to take for granted stuff a lot of kids in Mexico would kill to do. One day when I was playing a video game and listening to my grandpa's record player, he said, "Alex, while you're in the room taking that video game for granted, people back when this was modern thought it was a miracle!" When I read your book Esperanza Rising, it changed the way I look at things.

I realized that 95% of kids in this world aren't as blessed as I am. I used to think I needed things that in a course of a lifetime don't matter because my friends have them. Then I thought of the victims of hurricane Katrina and Esperanza. The hurricane victims lost their everything in a storm, Esperanza lost her everything in a fire. But there was something the fire didn't take away. That was her hope. When Esperanza believed in herself, everything turned out all right. your wonderful book taught me two very important lessons. 1. We should never lose hope, because even when we seem to be at rock bottom, God will guide us through our troubles with his shining light. 2. we shouldn't take things such as video games for granted because 95% of the world can't afford the things they want. I guess when we see something we want, we should think about the other 95% of this world who can't afford things like what we are wanting.

Thank you for your lessons.

Sincerely,

Alex Kaptain