Esperanza Rising

Summery

By: Mackenzie Joos

I read the book Esperanza Rising by Pam Munoz Ryan. This book was mostly about a young girl named Esperanza. She lives on a ranch with her mother, father, and her grandmother. Her father owns a huge grape ranch so they live in a big fancy house with a lot of servants. Since Esperanza is the only child she and her father are very close. Esperanza was turning thirteen and every birthday they go through the same thing, she wakes up to all her friends and family singing to her outside her window. Then she would get dressed and go open presents were she would get a doll from her father, just like every year, but this year was different from any other one. Since it’s the begging of grape season her father goes and checks on the land with some of his servants. When the next morning came and her father hadn’t come home everyone was worried, so they sent people to go look for him. Later that day they came back, and Esperanza’s father was killed. A couple of days after Esperanza’s father had been killed one of her uncle’s came by and asked her mother to marry him so they could be the most perfect, richest couple in Mexico, but she refused. That night they woke up to their house burning. Everyone got out safe, but Esperanza’s grandmother hurt her ankle. They thought that it was their uncle that started the house in fire. So they made a plan, they were going to leave the country, and find jobs in America. So that night Esperanza and her mother hid in a wagon to a train station, and rode it for days. When they finally got to California they rode in a truck to their hut. Esperanza couldn’t believe her eyes, she didn’t want to live in a house that looked like a horse stall, but her mother was glad that they were all safe and away from their uncle. Since they had no money left Esperanza had to stay home and watch the babies while her mother had to go and work in the sheds. Esperanza and no idea how to change a diaper, feed a baby, or how to sweep. But she learned quickly has the years past. She missed her grandmother, they had to keep her in Mexico because her ankle, and they will be sending money back for her so she can make it to California. One day there was a terrible sand storm, and Esperanza’s mother got sand in her lungs and got very sick. So they had to bring her to a hospital, and a couple of months later the doctor told them that her mother was depressed. So Esperanza decided that she was going to take her mother’s place in the shed. As five months pass Esperanza’s mother came back to the house, but she had to rest a lot and get back her strength. By that time Esperanza knew how to a lot more then when she first came to America.

Recommendation

I really liked this book and I would recommend it to anyone, but I think girls would enjoy it more than a boy would. I thought it was good because it was fast and it was good at the begging to the very end. This book has a little bit of sadness in it, like when they find out that her father had died or when they had to start their lives all over again in a new country. I thought the best part of the book was when one of the people the Esperanza was living with went back to Mexico to get her grandmother. Another reason I like this book was that these people never gave up hope. When Esperanza’s mother gotten depressed Esperanza knew that if she prayed enough for her she would get better, or when they had to leave their grandmother in Mexico she knew that if she kept on working and saving her money up she would eventually has enough to get her to America. I would have to say that if they gave up hope right away they wouldn’t have known that you can make it through life without big fancy houses of nice dresses you just need your family, and love to make it through.