

Making Connections between “Los Aguacates” and the UDHR

(Example, for Teacher Reference)

Directions: Refer to *Esperanza Rising* and your simplified version of the UDHR to answer the questions. Remember to quote accurately from the text.

1. Reread pages 186–188. Why do Miguel and Esperanza drive so far to shop at the Japanese market?

Because Mr. Yakota stocks the things they need and treats the Mexicans like real people, while other market owners are not so kind to them. On page 186, Miguel says to Esperanza, “Some of the other market owners aren’t as kind to Mexicans as Mr. Yakota.” On page 187, Miguel also explains, “Americans see us as one big brown group who are good for only manual labor. At this market, no one stares at us or treats us like outsiders or calls us ‘dirty greasers.’”

2. What connections does Esperanza make between what Miguel said and the stories she has heard from others?

Esperanza has heard from others that “there were special sections at the movie theater for Negroes and Mexicans. In town, parents did not want their children going to the same schools with Mexicans.”

3. Which article(s) of the UDHR does this defy? How? (defy means to go against)

Article 2 of the UDHR says, “Don’t Discriminate,” which means that it doesn’t matter where you are from, what color your skin is, or what language you speak, everyone should be treated the same. According to Miguel, Americans treat people differently according to the color of their skin or where they are from.