

Esperanza Rising: **Questions about “Las Ciruelas”**

(Example, for Teacher Reference)

1. This chapter is titled “Las Ciruelas/Plums.” Why do you think Pam Muñoz Ryan chose this title for the chapter? How does this title relate to the main events or ideas in this chapter?

Pam Muñoz Ryan chose “Las Ciruelas/Plums” as the title because plums are delicious, but if your body is not used to them raw, they will make you sick like the babies. That is just like what happened to Mama because of the dust. She was not used to it, so when the dust storm happened, it made her sick, like the plums made the babies sick.

2. Make an inference: What does Esperanza’s response to the challenge on pages 139–143 tell us about her as a person? Cite evidence from the text to support your answer.

Esperanza is a problem solver, trying to figure out what to do in hard situations based on things that she knows from her own experiences. “What did Hortensia give her when she was a child and was sick? ... Rice water!” (p. 142)