

**Story Quilt:  
Scope and Sequence**

**Essential Question:** Where does hope appear in *Esperanza Rising*?

**Objective:** SWBAT uncover hope as a theme in *Esperanza Rising*.

**Standard:** CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.6.5 Analyze how a particular sentence, chapter, scene, or stanza fits into the overall structure of a text and contributes to the development of the theme, setting, or plot.

**Time Period:**

Novel completion: about  $\frac{3}{4}$  into the novel

Day 1: Begin in the middle of class (finish as homework)

Day 2: Student presentations (briefly share creation and rationale)

**Rationale (Theme):**

Students will be looking at several different themes in *Esperanza Rising*, but for them to really understand theme, I want them to focus on one and dig deeper. Hope is an easier theme for 6th graders to relate to; thus, it will be easier for the students to identify hope throughout the novel.

**Rationale (Story Quilt):**

Abuelita's blanket is a symbol of hope. She creates pictures of mountains and valleys, but when Esperanza has to leave for the U.S., Abuelita gives it to Esperanza to finish. The mountains and valleys represent the ups and downs in life, and Abuelita always states, "Do not be afraid to start over" (15), especially now that Esperanza is starting a new and difficult life. The title itself, *Esperanza Rising*, means "Hope Rising."

**Materials:** construction paper cut in squares (ex: 9"x9"), scissors, glue, markers, colored pencils, crayons, pipe cleaners, and magazines; students may bring any other art supplies

**Examples (Esperanza):**

- Mountains and valleys
- "Do not be afraid to start over"
- "Hope Rising"
- Washtub grotto

### Esperanza's Quilt of Hope

We have looked at several different themes in *Esperanza Rising*, but now it is time to dig deeper. Hope is a major theme throughout the novel, and as a class, we will create a story quilt for Esperanza.

When Esperanza had to leave Mexico, Abuelita gave her an unfinished blanket for her to work on after arriving in the United States. This blanket is to give Esperanza hope, so our quilt will be a quilt of hope.

Each student will design and create a square that depicts a scene, a quote, an image, or any other aspect from *Esperanza Rising* that symbolizes or refers to hope. We will begin this assignment during class, but whatever is not finished needs to be completed as homework.

Tomorrow we will create our class quilt. Each of you will briefly present your square, describing what you included in your square and why you made these choices. Then you will mount your square onto the bulletin board so that your square can become a part of the larger class quilt.

Here are some examples. They are not from *Esperanza Rising*, but they portray courage and bravery, both of which are important to the novel.



**Theme quilt:**  
"Facing adversity with courage  
and hope builds character"  
Designed by Ana Legaspi  
graduate student at Seattle University



**Theme quilt:**  
"With someone in  
your corner  
supporting you,  
you are able to  
stand up for  
yourself"  
Designed by Jessica May  
graduate student at Seattle University

Adapted from <http://www.litcircles.org/Extension/storyquilt.html>