

Name \_\_\_\_\_



## Debating Esperanza

**Directions:** In small groups or as a class, discuss the questions below. Each question is designed to spark debate and multiple viewpoints. Be ready to share your opinion and support your answer with examples from the novel. Respectfully respond to others' ideas.

1. **Class Differences:** Esperanza is shocked when she must live and work alongside people she once thought were "below" her. *Question:* Is it fair to judge people by their wealth or social class? How does Esperanza's experience change her view?
2. **Immigration:** Esperanza's family migrates from Mexico to the U.S. for safety and survival. *Question:* Do you think people should leave their homeland when life becomes too dangerous or difficult, or should they stay and fight to make things better? Why?
3. **Perseverance:** Esperanza faces many challenges: poverty, hard work, and Mama's illness, but learns to keep going. *Question:* What does it mean to truly persevere? Is perseverance more about strength, patience, or hope? Defend your answer.
4. **Strikes and Fairness:** Workers risk their jobs by striking for better conditions. *Question:* Was striking worth the danger? Would you have joined the strike if you were in Esperanza's place?
5. **Hope and Family:** Esperanza holds onto Abuelita's words: "*Do not be afraid to start over.*" *Question:* Which is more important for survival: hope in the future or support from family? Or are both equally necessary?

**Reflection:** Choose the question that sparked the most debate in your group. Explain your opinion and whether you agreed or disagreed with your classmates.

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