

Esperanza's Turning Points Answer Key

(Sample Responses)

1. Papa's Death

- **Effect:** Esperanza and Mama lose their financial security and safety, forcing them to consider leaving Mexico.

2. The Fire

- **Cause:** Esperanza's jealous uncles set the fire to pressure Mama into marriage.
- **Effect:** Mama and Esperanza decide to flee to the United States for a new life.

3. Mama's Illness

- **Effect:** Esperanza must take on adult responsibilities, care for Isabel and others, and work harder to provide for her family.

4. The Strike

- **Effect:** Esperanza faces danger and learns about the struggles of farm workers, helping her to understand the value of unity and sacrifice.

Sample Reflection:

The fire sequence is especially important because it completely changes Esperanza's life. Losing her home forces her to leave behind the comfort of her old life and move to America. This event pushes her to adapt, learn new skills, and grow stronger. It marks the true beginning of her transformation.