

## Esperanza's Symbols Answer Key

### 1. The Phoenix

- Literal: A mythical bird Abuelita describes, rising from its ashes.
- Represents: Rebirth, renewal, and rising after destruction.
- Connection: Esperanza must rebuild her life after losing everything in Mexico, like the phoenix rising from ashes.

### 2. The Crochet Blanket

- Literal: The blanket Abuelita teaches Esperanza to crochet and that Esperanza continues in California.
- Represents: Patience, resilience, and continuity of family traditions.
- Connection: As Esperanza works on the blanket, she learns endurance and gains strength during her struggles.

### 3. The Train Ride

- Literal: The journey from Mexico to the United States after the fire.
- Represents: Transition, change, and the divide between Esperanza's old and new life.
- Connection: The train ride symbolizes Esperanza leaving behind wealth and entering a life of hardship and growth.

### 4. The Rose Bush

- Literal: Papa's roses, later transplanted by Miguel to California.
- Represents: Love, memory, and hope across distance.
- Connection: The roses remind Esperanza of her father and give her strength to face difficulties in the U.S.