Chapter 13
Las Uvas (grapes)

mar•vel |ˈmɑrvl|
verb (marvels, marveling, marveled; chiefly Brit. marvels, marvelling, marvelled) [no obj.]
be filled with wonder or astonishment:
she marveled at Jeffrey's composure | [with direct speech]: “Isn't this an evening,” marveled John.

pre•mo•ni•tion |ˈprɛməniʃən, ˈprem-|
noun
a strong feeling that something is about to happen, esp. something unpleasant: he had a premonition of imminent disaster.
Remember to choose the definition that fits best in the context of the sentence!

deceive | di′sēv |
verb [with obj.]
(of a person) cause (someone) to believe something that is not true, typically in order to gain some personal advantage: I didn’t intend to deceive people into thinking it was French champagne.
• (of a thing) give a mistaken impression: the area may seem to offer nothing of interest, but don’t be deceived | [no obj.]: everything about him was intended to deceive.
• (deceive oneself) fail to admit to oneself that something is true: enabling the rulers to deceive themselves about the nature of their own rule.

careen | ka′rēn |
verb 1 [with obj.] turn (a ship) on its side for cleaning, caulking, or repair.
• [no obj.] (of a ship) tilt; lean over: a heavy flood tide caused my vessel to careen dizzyly.
2 [no obj.] move swiftly and in an uncontrolled way in a specified direction: an electric golf cart careened around the corner.

What’s Up with the Phoenix?

After Esperanza’s family’s home burns down, Abuelita asks her, “Esperanza, do you remember the story of the phoenix, the lovely young bird that is reborn from its own ashes?” (4.68)

Abuelita is talking about a bird from Egyptian and Greek mythology that was said to live forever. Whenever it gets old, it bursts into flame and burns itself up. Then it’s reborn from its own pile of ashes, young and beautiful again. Talk about perseverance.
But What Does it Mean?

Not surprisingly, the phoenix is often used as a symbol of hope and rebirth. (Can you guess why?) Since it’s born out of flames and ashes, it’s especially appropriate that we encounter this symbol right after Esperanza’s house burns to the ground. Like the phoenix, Esperanza and her family are literally emerging from a smoldering pile of debris. But are they going to lie down and give up? No way. Abuelita tells Esperanza that they will be like the phoenix, “rising again, with a new life ahead of us” (4.70).

But What Does it Mean?

Okay, so it’s easy to see how the phoenix can serve as a symbol of Esperanza’s particular experience. But could it also be a symbol for the immigration experience in general? Think about it. In Esperanza Rising, the immigrants we encounter leave their homes because their old ways of life are spent, used up, and close to hopeless...
But What Does it Mean?

By coming to the United States, these characters have a renewed sense of hope. Their former lives may be history, but as immigrants in a new country, they hope for a new life, full of new opportunities.

The symbol of the phoenix is a way to sum up the experience that every immigrant to a new country must go through—starting over.

Las Uvas...Again?

HARVEST:

Did you notice that the title of the final chapter, "Las Uvas (Grapes)," is the same as the title of the first full chapter? Yep, the harvest has come full circle, and it's time to pick grapes again. But this time, Esperanza will really be working instead of just cutting one ceremonial cluster of grapes while wearing a silk dress. That's right—this repetition makes us realize how much has changed for Esperanza in the last year.
Las Uvas...Again?

**BIRTHDAY:**

It's not only the title of the chapter that reminds us of the novel's opening. It's also the context—once again, it's our protagonist's birthday. On last year's birthday, Esperanza was in the dumps, big time. Her father had just been killed, and when she woke up, "Her smile faded, her chest tightened, and a heavy blanket of anguish smothered her smallest joy" (3.1). Well how's this for different? When Esperanza hears the traditional serenade on the morning of her fourteenth birthday, she "sat up in bed and listened. And smiled" (14.106).

Esperanza may have lost a lot, but she's also figured out what's really important to her. Some serious healing has taken place over the course of 365 days.

Las Uvas...Again?

**LIFE LESSONS:**

There's one more repetition worth thinking about. Check out the novel's final sentences:

Esperanza smiled and reached over and gently pulled the yarn, unraveling the uneven stitches. Then she looked into Isabel's trusting eyes and said, "Do not ever be afraid to start over." (14.111)

Sound familiar? Esperanza repeats to Isabel the lessons (about needlework and life) that Abuelita once taught her. In one short year, this young lady has come a long, long way.
Chapter 13
Las Uvas (Grapes)… Again?

Vocabulary
Find the following vocabulary words on the indicated pages in your novel and write down the exact sentences in which they are used. Then, identify the parts of speech they are functioning as in those contexts. Finally, look up the words in a dictionary and record their definition (only write definition for part of speech which is used in book)

*** (Remember, many words can function as different parts of speech, depending on the context in which they are used. Be sure to identify the context before assuming the wrong part of speech) ***

Marveled (pg. 234)
In the text: ____________________________________________________________

_______________________________________________________________________

Part of Speech: ___________________
Definition: ____________________________________________________________

_______________________________________________________________________

Deceiving (pg. 239)
In the text: ____________________________________________________________

_______________________________________________________________________

Part of Speech: ___________________
Definition: ____________________________________________________________

_______________________________________________________________________

Premonition (pg. 245)
In the text: ____________________________________________________________

_______________________________________________________________________

Part of Speech: ___________________
Definition: ____________________________________________________________

_______________________________________________________________________

Careen (pg. 249)
In the text: ____________________________________________________________

_______________________________________________________________________

Part of Speech: ___________________
Definition: ____________________________________________________________

_______________________________________________________________________
Completion  Answer all questions complete sentences.

1. Why do you think this chapter has the same name as the first?

2. For what reason does Alfonso take Esperanza and Hortensia away from work in the middle of the day? Where are they going?

3. What does Miguel bring back for Esperanza as proof that things will get better?

4. What does the Spanish word un fantasma mean?

5. While Abuelita is telling Mama and Esperanza about what happened after they left Mexico, what symbolism is going on simultaneously with Esperanza's actions? (Look on pages 244-246)

6. What did Abuelita say was a sign that whatever had been wrong, was now better?

7. Why does Esperanza weave a strand of her hair into the blanket?

8. When Esperanza told Abuelita their story, instead of measuring time by the usual seasons, how does she tell it?
9. As the sun rose, Esperanza began to feel as if she ____________________.

10. Just like that day on the mountain, when she first arrived in the valley, Esperanza felt as if she was floating. But what is different about this time? Quote the text. What does she realize?

11. What line on page 250 uses the **phoenix** as a simile and symbol of how she was carried up/floating? What does the symbol of the phoenix mean?

12. When Esperanza soared, she did so with the anticipation of dreams she never knew she could have. List those dreams:

13. How does the "sides of the river" metaphor change now?! (page 251)

14. Even through Esperanza's journey, soaring above, what is it that holds her heart to the earth?

15. If you have time left in class, go to [www.shmoop.com](http://www.shmoop.com), search “Esperanza Rising” and explore the **Learning Guide**. If you do not have time left in class, explore shmoop this weekend to study a bit!

   *There are some AWESOME practice quizzes, flashcards, and analysis tools that will definitely help you study for the exam!*