

Unit 1: Building Background Knowledge: Human Rights

Common Core State Standards addressed: RL.5.1, RL.5.5, RI.5.1, RI.5.2, W.5.9a, SL.5.1a-c, L.5.4



Guiding Questions and Big Ideas

- What are human rights, and how can they be threatened?
- Human rights belong to everyone, but they can look different to different people in different places.
- We can better understand how human rights can be threatened by reading about the experiences of fictional characters in stories.
- We can raise awareness of human rights issues by writing about the issues fictional characters face.

What will your student be doing at school?

This unit is designed to help students build knowledge about human rights while simultaneously building their ability to read challenging text closely through a case study of the threats to human rights faced by fictional characters in the novel *Esperanza Rising* by Pam Muñoz Ryan (740L). Students read this novel in conjunction with selected articles of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and consider how the human rights of the characters were threatened in the novel.

When reading articles of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, students determine the main ideas and details to support the main ideas, and then summarize the text. Students also read informational texts related to the novel's historical context. They will trace the journey of Esperanza, a young girl born into a comfortable life of privilege in Mexico in the 1930s, who is forced to flee to California and must rise above her difficult circumstances.

In the second half of the unit, students participate in a discussion about threats to human rights in *Esperanza Rising* and how the students feel about the events in the novel.

The Language standard that students focus on in this unit (L.5.4) requires them to:

- Use strategies to determine the meaning of unfamiliar vocabulary, including using the context (read around the word), using common affixes and roots as a clue to the meaning of the word, and using reference materials like glossaries and dictionaries to find the definition.

Working to become ethical people is the habit of character emphasized in this unit. These are the specific skills students will focus on:

- I show empathy. This means I understand and share or take into account the feelings, situation, or attitude of others.
- I behave with integrity. This means I am honest and do the right thing, even when it's difficult, because it is the right thing to do.

- I show respect. This means I appreciate the abilities, qualities, and achievements of others and treat myself, others, and the environment with care.
- I show compassion. This means I notice when others are sad or upset and try to help them.

How can you support your student at home?

- Talk to your student about human rights and threats to human rights, including any personal experiences you may have had.
- Read informational texts to determine the main ideas from supporting details and to summarize.
- Read articles of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and discuss what they mean and how you feel about them. (Students closely read Articles 2, 3, 13, 17, and 23 in class.)
- Watch documentaries and research on the internet with your student to find out more about the Mexican Revolution and its effects on immigration.
- Read chapter books with your student and discuss how each chapter fits into the overall structure of the novel using the key below:

Key:	
exposition	beginning of the story describing how things are before the action begins
rising action	series of conflicts and crisis in the story that builds toward the climax
climax	the turning point, when something important happens that changes the direction of the story
falling action	the action that happens after the climax and starts to guide the story toward the resolution
resolution	tying everything together

Unit 1: Homework

In Lessons 1–12, homework focuses on research reading and determining the meaning of unfamiliar words using context and reference materials. Students also reread the chapter of *Esperanza Rising* read in class and answer questions about it.

Research reading: Your student is expected to independently research the topic by reading topic-related books of his or her choice for approximately 20 minutes **each day** and responding to a prompt of choice in the **front** of the independent reading journal. These are usually books your student will bring home from school; however, they may be topic-related books chosen by the student at the public or home library. Prompts for independent reading can be found in the homework materials provided.

Choice reading: If your student would also like to independently read and respond to a book of free choice, he or she may use the **back** of the independent reading journal. Prompts for independent reading can be found in the homework materials provided.

Vocabulary logs:

- In the front of the log, students record new **academic vocabulary**: words you might find in informational texts on many different topics. For example, the words *challenges*, *questions*, and *explain* are words that could be found in books on any topic.
- In the back of the log, students record new **domain-specific vocabulary**: words about a particular topic. For example, the words *tadpoles*, *frogspawn*, and *amphibian* are some that would be found on the topic of frogs.

Lesson	Lesson Content	Homework Practice	Due In	Anticipated Date
1	Students infer the topic and are introduced to the final performance task.	1. Read and reflect on the module guiding questions	1. Students are not required to hand in anything, but they should be prepared for a reflective discussion if they have something they would like to share with the group (not mandatory).	
2	Students read the introduction of <i>Esperanza Rising</i> , analyze how they think it fits into the structure of the novel, and choose a research reading book.	1. Research reading and answering prompt	1. Teacher will check independent reading journals strategically.	
3	Students read “Las Uvas” in <i>Esperanza Rising</i> and read about the historical setting of the novel.	1. <i>Esperanza Rising</i> : Questions about “Las Uvas” 2. Research reading and answering prompt	1. Lesson 4 2. Teacher will check independent reading journals strategically.	
4	Students are introduced to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and are given a simplified version of the articles. Students are also given a vocabulary log.	1. Finish adding symbols to your UDHR 2. Research reading and answering prompt	1. Lesson 5 2. Teacher will check independent reading journals strategically.	
5	Students read “Las Papayas” in <i>Esperanza Rising</i> and make connections between the events in the chapter and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.	1. <i>Esperanza Rising</i> : Questions about “Las Papayas” 2. Research reading and answering prompt	1. Lesson 6 2. Teacher will check independent reading journals strategically.	
6	Students closely read Article 23 of the UDHR and determine the main ideas and supporting details. They write a summary of the text after participating in a mini lesson on writing a summary.	1. <i>Esperanza Rising</i> : Questions about “Los Higos” 2. Research reading and answering prompt	1. Lesson 7 2. Teacher will check independent reading journals strategically.	

*Teacher note: Please complete the Anticipated Date column according to your schedule.

Homework Resources (for Families)

Lesson	Lesson Content	Homework Practice	Due In	Anticipated Date
7	Students make connections between the UDHR and “Los Higos” in <i>Esperanza Rising</i> and closely read Article 17 to answer questions about the text, determine the main ideas and supporting details, and write a summary.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Research reading and answering prompt 2. For ELLs: Language Dive Practice I: Article 17 of the UDHR 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Teacher will check independent reading journals strategically. 2. Lesson 8 	
8	Students read “Las Guayabas” in <i>Esperanza Rising</i> , make connections between the chapter and the UDHR, and closely read Article 2 to answer questions about the text, to determine the main ideas and supporting details, and to write a summary.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <i>Esperanza Rising</i>: Questions about “Las Guayabas” 2. Research reading and answering prompt 3. For ELLs: Language Dive Practice II: Article 2 of the UDHR 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Lesson 9 2. Teacher will check independent reading journals strategically. 3. Lesson 9 	
9	Students read “Los Melones” in <i>Esperanza Rising</i> and then for the mid-unit assessment, they closely read Article 13 of the UDHR to answer questions about the text, to determine the main ideas and supporting details, and to write a summary.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <i>Esperanza Rising</i>: Questions about “Los Melones” 2. Research reading and answering prompt 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Lesson 10 2. Teacher will check independent reading journals strategically. 	
10	Students prepare for and participate in a text-based discussion about threats to human rights in Chapters 1–3 of <i>Esperanza Rising</i> .	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Research reading and answering prompt 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Teacher will check independent reading journals strategically. 	
11	Students read “Las Cebollas” in <i>Esperanza Rising</i> and prepare for a text-based discussion about threats to human rights in Chapters 4–6.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Research reading and answering prompt 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Teacher will check independent reading journals strategically. 	
12	Students participate in a text-based discussion about the threats to human rights in Chapters 4–6 of <i>Esperanza Rising</i> for the end of unit assessment.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Research reading and answering prompt 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Teacher will check independent reading journals strategically. 	

*Teacher note: Please complete the Anticipated Date column according to your schedule.

Independent Reading

Directions: Remember to record responses to **research reading in the front** of your independent reading journal and responses to **choice reading in the back**. Try to choose a different prompt each time.

Record any new vocabulary in your vocabulary log. Remember, academic vocabulary is recorded in the front, and domain-specific vocabulary (words about the topic) is recorded in the back. Mark vocabulary found during independent reading with a symbol such as an asterisk (*).

Record:

- Date
- Title and author of your reading book
- Pages you have read
- Prompt
- Response

Example:

Date: 04/08/2015

Book Title and Author: *Universal Declaration of Human Rights by the United Nations*

Pages Read: *Article 4*

Prompt: *What is the main idea of the text you read?*

Response: People shall not be slaves or treated in that way.

Consider using the following independent reading prompts*:

- What is the main idea of the text? What are some of the key details, and how do they support the main idea?
- What do the illustrations (photographs, maps) tell you? How do they help you understand the words?
- What questions do you now have after reading? What would you like to learn more about? Why?
- What are the most important facts you learned from reading?
- What is the most interesting fact you learned today? Why?
- How does what you read today connect to something you have learned in previous lessons?
- How does the section or chapter fit into the overall structure of the novel?
- How does the main character change over the course of the novel?
- Choose one new word from your reading today and analyze it on a vocabulary square:

<p>Definition in your own words</p>	<p>Synonyms (words that mean the same)</p>
<p>Words with the same affix or root</p>	<p>Sketch</p>
<p>Translation in home language (if appropriate):</p>	

*Some of the prompts will not be appropriate for the text students are reading. Invite students to choose a prompt that works for the text they have just read.

Vocabulary

Directions: In the classroom, you have been recording words from your texts in your vocabulary log. Throughout this unit, you have been research reading topic-related books at home to build your knowledge of human rights and recording words in your independent reading journal.

Choose a word from your research reading or from a text you've read in class and add the word to your vocabulary log. Try to choose a different word to add and to practice a different vocabulary strategy each time. For each word, be sure to add the following:

1. The definition, or meaning, of the word
2. The vocabulary strategy you used to figure out the meaning of the word
3. A sketch or diagram that helps you to better understand the meaning of the word

As a reminder, the vocabulary strategies we've been working on in class are:

Vocabulary Strategies

- Context: Read the sentence around the word.
- Look at the affixes for clues.
- Look at the root of the word for clues.
- Use a dictionary.
- Discuss the word with another person (after attempting some of the above strategies).

Esperanza Rising: Questions about "Las Uvas"**Name:** _____ **Date:** _____**Directions:** Reread "Las Uvas" (grapes) in *Esperanza Rising* and answer the questions below. Quote accurately from the text in your answers.

1. On pages 8–12, Esperanza and Mama seem to be worried about Papa. What specific words or phrases in this section of the novel help you know that they are worried? Why are they worried? Quote accurately from the text.

2. On pages 14–15, what two pieces of advice does Abuelita give Esperanza? How does Esperanza respond to the advice? Quote accurately from the text.

3. On page 18, Esperanza says that a "deep river" runs between her and Miguel. What does she mean? How does Miguel respond when she tells him this? Quote accurately from the text.

Esperanza Rising: Questions about "Las Papayas"

Name: _____ **Date:** _____

Directions: Reread "Las Papayas" (papayas) in *Esperanza Rising* and answer the questions below. Quote accurately from the text in your answers.

1. Esperanza: How is Esperanza responding to her father's death?

Reread the following passages:

- Page 25, the paragraph that begins "She took a quivery breath ..."
- Pages 27–28

What other evidence can you find in Chapter 3 that shows how Esperanza is responding? Quote accurately from the text:

2. Mama: How is Mama responding to her husband's death?

Reread the following passages:

- Page 27, the paragraph that begins "Esperanza avoided opening her birthday gifts ..."
- Pages 30–31

Quote accurately from the text:

Esperanza Rising: Questions about "Los Higos"

Name: _____ **Date:** _____

Directions: Reread "Los Higos" (figs) in *Esperanza Rising* and answer the questions below. Quote accurately from the text in your answers.

1. Reread pages 44–45. How does Mama respond to Tio’s marriage proposal after the fire? What does that tell you about Mama as a person? What does she see as her role in the family?

2. Reread page 51. Why does Abuelita give the crocheting to Esperanza? How does Esperanza show she still is not ready to face the situation?

3. Reread pages 55–56. How does Miguel demonstrate that he is ready for this challenge? What characteristic does he show during this time? How is this different from Esperanza?

Close Reading Language Dive Practice I: Article 17 of the UDHR

Name: _____ **Date:** _____

1. Read the scrambled sentence below from Article 17 of the UDHR. Write it in the correct sequence:

in associ- ation with others.	has the right	as well as	Everyone	to own property alone
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2. Sketch the meaning of the words and phrases below:

Everyone	alone	in association with others

3. In the sentence you wrote in #1, use colored markers to underline:
 - *Everyone* in red
 - *has the right to own property alone as well as in association with others* in blue
4. Circle the phrase *as well as*.
5. What is another way to say *as well as*? How is the other way different in meaning?

6. Read the language in the boxes. Use *as well as* to connect the sentence in Box 1 with the phrase in Box 2. Write the complete sentence on the line below the boxes.

Everyone has the right to own property alone.	in association with others
1	2

7. Read the language in the boxes. Use *as well as* to connect the sentence in Box 1 with the phrase in Box 2. Write the complete sentence on the lines below the boxes.

Everyone has the right to work.	to receive equal pay for equal work
1	2

8. Complete the two sentences.

Everyone _____ as well as _____ has the right to _____ as well as _____.

9. In the sentences you wrote in #1, 5, 6, 7, and 8, label:

- "S" above the subject of the sentence
- "P" above the predicate of the sentence

Language Dive Practice II: Article 2 of the UDHR

Name: _____ **Date:** _____

1. Read the scrambled sentence below from Article 2 of the UDHR. Write it in the correct sequence:

to all the rights and freedoms	such as race, colour, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth or other status.	is entitled	set forth in this Declaration,	Everyone	without distinction of any kind,
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2. In the sentence you wrote in #1, use colored markers to underline:
 - *Everyone* in red
 - *is entitled to all the rights and freedoms set forth in this Declaration, without distinction of any kind, such as race, colour, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth or other status* in blue
3. What is another way to say *without distinction*?

4. Read the subjects in the boxes on the left. Read the predicates in the boxes on the right. Match subjects with predicates to write sentences that make sense on the lines below.

Subjects	Predicates
Everyone	is entitled to fair pay.
The student version	was written by the United Nations to protect all people everywhere.
Everyone who works	is entitled to all the rights of the UDHR.
The Universal Declaration of Human Rights	is that everyone has the right to own property.
One main idea of Article 17	describes Article 17 as the "The Right to Your Own Things."

5. Which article of the UDHR is most important to you? Describe it in your own words.

6. In the sentences you wrote, label:
- "S" above the subject of the sentence
 - "P" above the predicate of the sentence

Esperanza Rising: Questions about "Las Guayabas"

Name: _____ **Date:** _____

Directions: Reread "Las Guayabas" (guavas) in *Esperanza Rising* and answer the questions below. Quote accurately from the text in your answers.

1. How does Esperanza travel to the train station? How does she feel about it? Quote accurately from the text.

2. What does the little girl on the train want to do? How does Esperanza respond? Why? Quote accurately from the text.

Esperanza Rising: Questions about "Los Melones"

Name: _____ **Date:** _____

Directions: Reread "Los Melones" (cantaloupes) in *Esperanza Rising* and answer the questions below. Quote accurately from the text in your answers.

1. Describe the geographical setting of *Esperanza Rising*. What is it like in California? Quote accurately from the text to support your answer.
