



THE TERRAPIN TIMES

Third Grade  Spring Edition

What are we reading?

Esperanza Rising, by Pam Munoz Ryan, is a story about perseverance and the importance of family. Esperanza grew up in a privileged home in Mexico in the 1920s, surrounded by servants and being able to have anything her heart desired, until tragedy struck her family. She and her Mama had to move to a farm in California where they learned about hard work and financial struggles. The third grade students read the book while having deep discussions about the central message, meaningful quotes, character traits, cause and effect and events that motivated characters' actions and feelings. Students couldn't believe that reading could have such an effect on their emotions. We believe this book will resonate with our students for many years to come.

PROJECT BASED LEARNING

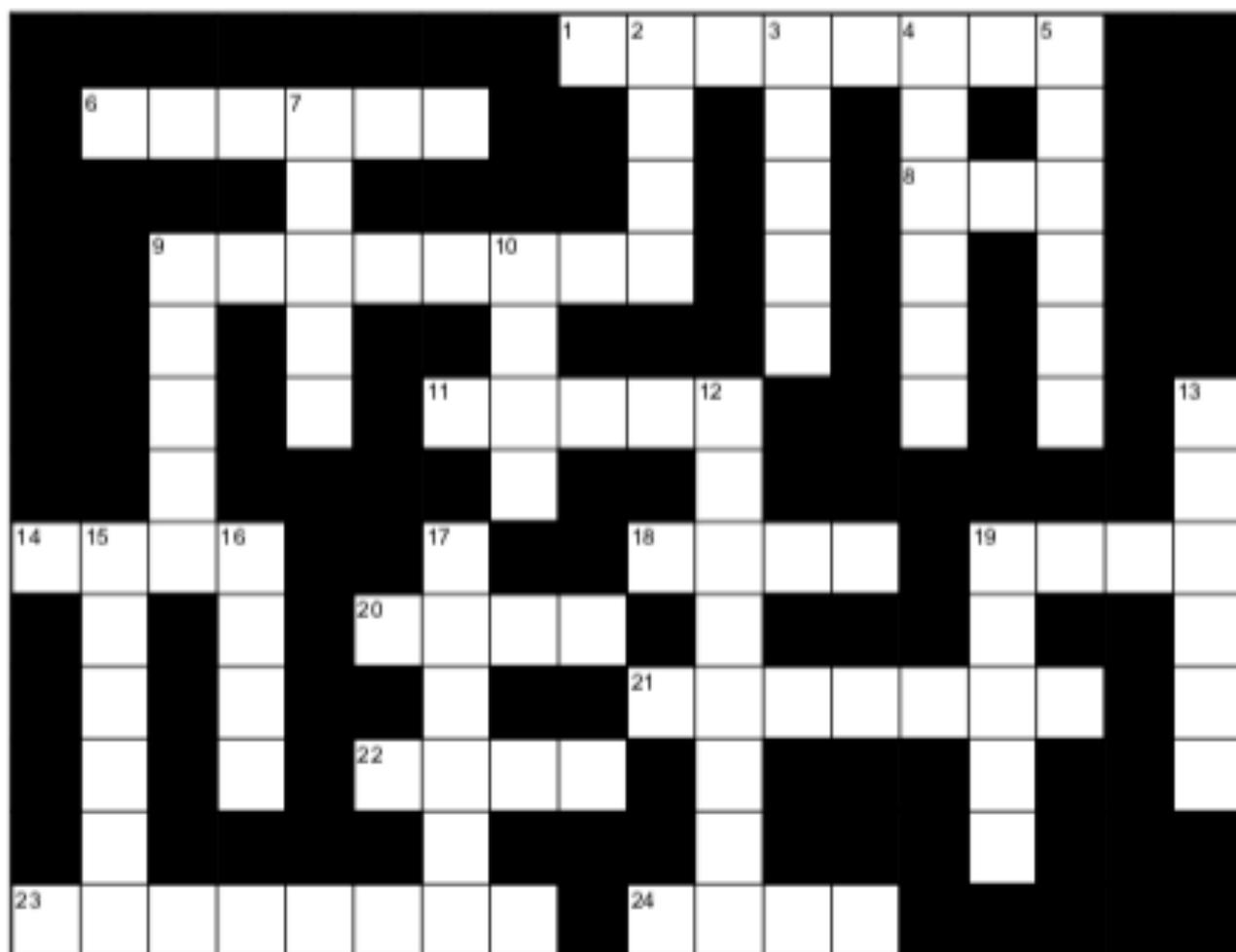
Our last unit was all about culture and the importance of understanding and sharing information about cultures around the world. Our third graders researched countries' traditions, geography, food and celebrations. They shared what they learned by writing persuasive essays, creating menus, and making maps. Thank you to Ms. Devine, Ms. Weintraub, Mr. Tetro and Ms. Salas who provided multiple and continuous opportunities throughout our entire unit for our third graders to explore culture through the arts and technology.

MATH

All the teachers in third grade would like to commend our students for all their hard work and perseverance in preparing for the Math State Tests. They have worked hard at improving skills such as representing, comparing and ordering fractions, measuring mass, volume, time and length and continuing to problem solve using mixed operations.

"There is no rose without thorns." – Abuelita from Esperanza Rising

Esperanza Rising Crossword 2



Across

1. What Isabel wants for Christmas
6. Gives Mama 2 hens; the egg lady
8. Marta's mother
9. They hide dangerous surprises in the harvest.
11. Miguel's nickname for Esperanza
14. Mexican workers could use it on Friday afternoons
18. Isabel's father
19. Author of Esperanza Rising
20. Promised Miguel he would help him get a job on the railroad one day
21. Hortensia's husband; Miguel's father
22. Papa's last gift to Esperanza
23. Summer camp parties held every Sat. night
24. Esperanza can feel its heart beating.

Down

2. Abuelita's sisters who help Mama & Esperanza get their traveling papers
3. Lupe and Pepe
4. Wants to be the Queen of May
5. Main crop of El Rancho de las Rosas
7. Wants the workers to strike
9. Esperanza's father
10. Esperanza cuts these off the potatoes
12. Esperanza's maternal grandmother
13. Bought for Mama but given to the campesino family
15. Hortensia is from there.
16. Wants to marry Mama
17. Market owner who is kind to Mexicans
19. Brought to CA by Miguel & Alfonso as a surprise



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Fourth Grade  Spring Edition

BOOKS TOO GOOD TO MISS

2030: A Day in the Life of Tomorrow's Kids
by Amy Zuckerman & Jim Daly

The Contest: Everest #1
by Gordon Korman

2030: A Day in the Life of Tomorrow's Kids
by Amy Zuckerman & Jim

Summer Trip Ideas

- Art museums/Exhibits
- Libraries & Readings
- Theatre/Dance/Music
- Animals/Aquariums/ Zoos/Wildlife
- Nature centers
- Botanical gardens
- Planetarium/Astronomy
- Historic places/sites
- Lighthouses/seaports

LITERACY

Our fourth-grade students have been working very hard on our narrative writing unit! Students will apply elements of narrative writing to compose a historical narrative perspective of a day in a life of a Native American. We will use research techniques to learn all about what life was like for boys and girls during that time period, including home, school, games, clothing and responsibilities. We will write in the first person perspective and use the writing process to draft, edit, revise and publish our work. Students are collaborating to create short stories from different perspectives, culminating in a class book of Native American narratives. Students will use technology to bring their writing to life!

MATH

We are now experts in working with angles as well as calculating area and perimeter! We know how to draw and measure angles as well as solve multi-step word problems involving area and perimeter. We are moving full steam ahead into our measurement unit, where we will learn all about customary and metric units of measurement, as well as conversions of mass, length and capacity. We continue to make great strides in our ability to solve word problems by using various strategies and identifying key words.

"The world moves for love; it kneels before it in awe." –William Hurt

FIELD DAY



PARENT EXPO NIGHT





THE TERRAPIN TIMES

Fifth Grade  Spring Edition

BOOKS TOO GOOD TO MISS

Arcade and the Triple T Token
by Rashad Jennings

The Miscalculations of Lightning Girl
by Stacy McAnulty

Wish
by Barbara O'Connor

Summer Tips

- Have your child read 15-20 minutes a day
- Frequently practice small amount of writing such as a diary entry or postcard to a friend
- Put your child in charge planning and budgeting for family meal or picnic
- Review Multiplication Tables

LITERACY

In our literacy unit, scholars have ended our Matter and Energy unit. Scholars have learned about food webs, food chains, ecosystems, and how energy is transferred through different biomes.

Our last PBL unit is Traveling to the Western Hemisphere. Our scholars will be researching various countries that are located in the Western Hemisphere. The countries we are focusing on are the United States, Canada, Brazil, and the Dominican Republic. Utilizing the information from their research, scholars will act as travel agents and put together travel packages that celebrate the region and promote travel to their specific country.

MATH

At this point in the math curriculum we have finishing learning how to divide and multiply fractions. We also have just finished our test prep units. Our next unit is coordinate graphing and creating our own line plots. We also will be starting our unit Getting Ready for Sixth Grade.

Please make sure our mathematicians our practicing all their multiplication and division facts during the summer.

“Travel makes one modest. You see what tiny place you occupy in the world.” –Gustav Flaubert

MOMA EXPERIENCE

