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Paint the Wind

Ryan, Pam Munoz

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About the Author

Pam Munoz Ryan grew up in California's, San Joaquin Valley. Along with her husband and four children, Ryan now lives in north San Diego County. She went to San Diego State University to become a teacher and then an administrator. She soon learned that she could write well and she began her first book.

Pam Munoz Ryan has written many books including *Experanza Rising*. This book has won the Pura Belpre Medal, the Jane Addams Peace Award and the Americas Award Honor Book. She has also won the national Willa Cather Award and the California Young Reader Medal for her book *Riding Freedom*. Not only does Ryan write novels, she writes picture books which include *Amelia and Eleanor Go For A Ride* and *When Marian Sang*. Both of these won the ALA Sibert Honor and NCTE's Orbis Pictus Award.

Pam Munoz Ryan's new book *Paint the Wind* has yet to win any awards but it has been nominated for the Young Hoosier Book Award. Ryan says that she wanted to write a story where a young girl was the heroine and intertwined her love of horses.

If you would like to know more about Pam Munoz Ryan you can check out her website at: www.pammunozryan.com.

Annotation

Maya is an eleven year old orphan who lives with her grandmother. Her parents died in a car accident when she was five. Her grandmother, her father's mother, is a very strict lady who has hidden information about Maya's mother from her. After a sudden stroke her grandmother passes away and Maya is sent to Wyoming to live with her mother's family, who she believes to be hillbillies.

When Maya arrives in Wyoming she meets Moose, her grandfather, Fig her uncle, his dog Golly and grandson Payton, and her aunt Vi. They live on a ranch but for the summers live in field camps in teepees, where they ride horses and lead groups of tourists. She soon learns that her lies and deceptive ways are not tolerated.

At first her and Payton do not see eye to eye and Aunt Vi has to resolve this by making them do everything together. Maya soon learns how to ride a horse and to gallop and lope. She also learns how to move on with her parent's death and enjoy life. Soon Maya meets Artemesia, a paint horse who was once owned by Aunt Vi and rode by her mother.

After some unfortunate events, Maya is placed in a situation where she has to pull her strength from her parent's bravery and survive in the wilderness. All she has are the things she learned and her mother's paint horse, Artemesia.

This book is a wonderful story of a young girl and her fight to find herself within a lifetime of lies and deceptions. Readers of young and old will enjoy reading about her fight within herself and then her fight to stay alive.

Genre

Family Stories

Point of View

The point of view is third person alternating between a young girl and a paint horse.

Theme

The theme is remembering what you have lost but moving on and using that to become brave. The title, *Paint the Wind*, comes from her father's love for painting and her mother's love of riding horses and becoming like the wind.

Conflict

The conflict of this novel is both internal and external. At first it is internal because of Maya's fight to except herself and getting over the past, her parents death and her grandmother's deception. At the end it is external because of Maya's fight to stay alive in the wilderness alone.

Conflict Resolution

The internal conflict is resolved when Aunt Vi pushes Maya to the breaking point making her face her fears and overcoming them. The external conflict is resolved when Maya and Artemesia trust each other and use each other to return to camp.

Characters

Maya An eleven year old girl who because of her grandmother's watchful eye is afraid of many things and uses lies to cover up her fears. She is soon placed with her family in Wyoming where she has to confront those fears.

Grandmother Maya's father's mother who believes in strict rules and following those rules

Moose Maya's mother's father who lives in Wyoming and wears his heart on his sleeve

Fig	Maya's tall skinny great-uncle who lives with Moose and Vi and owns a dog named Golly
Vi	Maya's short great-aunt who also lives with Moose, who teaches Maya to ride a horse
Payton	Maya's cousin who loves to pull pranks
Ellie	Maya's mother who passed away when she was five and loved to ride horses
Maya's Father	Passes away when she was five and loved to paint horses
Artemesia	A paint horse who was once owned by Aunt Vi and Maya's mother rode. She is now the lead horse in a group of horses and has a foal named Klee.
Klee	Artemesia's foal
Golly	Uncle Fig's dog
Seltzer	Maya's horse
Remington	A wild stallion who is trying to get Artemesia to be his mare
Wilson	Payton's horse
Morgana	Grandmother's first maid
Valentina	Grandmother's second maid

Setting

The wilderness of Wyoming

Interest/ Reading Level

Forth through Sixth Grade

Book talk

Have you ever wondered what it would be like to lose everything you have ever known? That is how Maya felt when she loses her parents and her grandmother. She is then forced to live with her family she has never known, in the wilderness of Wyoming. She soon learns that life in the wilderness can be wonderful. She learns how to ride a horse and swim in the river, but, just when Maya thought she had it all she loses it and has to fight for everything she has, including her life.

Discussion Questions

Chapters

1. Pre-Reading By looking at the cover and the title what do you think this book is going to be about?
Post-Reading What happened to Artemesia's second foal?
2. Pre-Reading Why do you think people lie?
Post-Reading What Happened to Maya's parents? Why do you think Maya lies?
3. Pre-Reading What do you think is going to happen to Artemesia's third foal?
Post-Reading What was the name of the new foal?
4. Pre-Reading DO you think Morgana will find out Maya was lying?
Post-Reading What did Morgana do to get revenge on Maya for lying to her?
5. Pre-Reading What do you think the herd will think of the new foal?
Post-Reading What was Sargent's reaction to the new foal?
6. Pre-Reading Do you think Maya will get revenge on Morgana and if so how?
Post-Reading How did Maya get revenge on Morgana? What happened to Maya's grandmother?
7. Pre-Reading What is a baby like?
Post-Reading What is Klee like?
8. Pre-Reading What do you think will happen to Maya now?
Post-Reading What were the arrangements for Maya's school year and summer supposed to be like and what was it really like?
9. Pre-Reading What do you think Maya's new family will be like?
Post-Reading Describe Moose and Fig.
10. Pre-Reading How will Maya react to the family?
Post-Reading Why is Moose getting rid of Maya?
11. Pre-Reading How do you think Maya will do in the camp?
Post-Reading Describe Aunt Vi. What is a ghost horse?
12. Pre-Reading What do you think Payton will be like?
Post-Reading Describe Payton. What was so special about what Maya found in her teepee?
13. Pre-Reading How do you think Maya will react to being around horses and riding them?
Post-Reading What did Payton say and do to make Maya angry?

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| 14. | Pre-Reading
Post-Reading | How do you think Maya will get revenge on Payton?
How did Maya get revenge on Payton? How do you think the consequences of her revenge made her feel? |
| 15. | Pre-Reading
Post-Reading | How do you think Payton and Maya will do having to do everything together?
Why do you think Maya told Aunt Vi the truth? |
| 16. | Pre-Reading
Post-Reading | How do you think Maya and Payton will treat each other now?
What happened to Wyeth? Why? |
| 17. | Pre-Reading
Post-Reading | What do you think will happen to Wyeth?
What is a gather? What happened during the gather? |
| 18. | Pre-Reading
Post-Reading | What do you think will happen to Artemesia and Klee?
Where are Artemesia and Klee? What almost happened to them? |
| 19. | Pre-Reading
Post-Reading | What do you think Maya's family will do about the gather?
What does Maya find in Aunt Vi's office? |
| 20. | Pre-Reading
Post-Reading | Do you think they will find the two horses?
What does Maya decide to do? Why? What does she find? |
| 21. | Pre-Reading
Post-Reading | What do you think will happen to Maya and Artemesia?
What happened to make Maya fall? |
| 22. | Pre-Reading
Post-Reading | What do you think is going to happen to Maya?
How does Maya decide to make a fire? |
| 23. | Pre-Reading
Post-Reading | Do you think Maya will be alright?
What did Maya accomplish? |
| 24. | Pre-Reading
Post-Reading | Do you think Artemesia will help Maya?
How does Maya ride Artemesia? |
| 25. | Pre-Reading
Post-Reading | Do you think Maya will make it back in time?
What happens when Maya returns to the first camp? |
| 26. | Pre-Reading
Post-Reading | How do you think Maya and her family feel?
What does Maya promise Payton? |
| 27. | Pre-Reading
Post-Reading | Do you think Maya will be able to keep her promise?
Who appears to Artemesia? |
| 28. | Pre-Reading
Post-Reading | Do you think Artemesia will stay with Maya?
What does Maya decide? |

Language

Vigil- Not being able to sleep page 51

Burdened- to be troubled by something going on in ones life page 80

Mare- a female horse page 9

Gather- a grouping of horses by people to catch the horses and sell them page 202

Barrel- the under side of a horse page 221

Stallion- a male horse page 9

Bit- a mouthpiece for a horse page 139

Tack- to prepare a horse for riding page 137

Reins- a leather strap used to control a horses direction page 166

Paint- a breed of horses page 6

Indiana Academic Standards

Third Grade English/ Language Arts 3.1; 3.2; 3.3

Forth Grade English/ Language Arts 4.1; 4.2; 4.3

Fifth Grade English/ Language Arts 5.1; 5.2; 5.3

Sixth Grade English/ Language Arts 6.1; 6.2; 6.3

Anticipation Statements

True	False	Questions
		1. People lie to make themselves look or feel better.
		2. People lie because they are scared.
		3. It is difficult for people to move on after a life altering change.
		4. It is difficult for people to change their ways after being a certain way (or raised a certain way) for so long.
		5. Sometimes it is difficult to be brave and not give up.

Read Aloud

Chapter 18 page 210

Artemesia and her foal Klee have been separated from the pack and are trying to survive alone.

Chapter 21 page 245

Maya is lost in the woods alone and trying to get on Artemesia to ride home.

If you like *Paint the Wind*, you'll love *Island of the Blue Dolphin* by Scott O'Dell, *Hatchet* by Gary Paulsen, or *Riding Freedom* by Pam Munoz Ryan.

Across the Curriculum

Social Studies- Students could use different resources (i.e. library, internet) to research American Indians and their use of horses (i.e. in war, everyday life, hunting)

Resources:

<http://www.redoaktree.org/indianhorse/index.htm>

http://www.nebraskastudies.org/0300/frameset_reset.html?http://www.nebraskastudies.org/0300/stories/0301_0111.html

Language- Students could write a narrative about Maya's next summer at the Sweet Water River camp.

Book Activities

After reading the book *Paint the Wind* each student should pick a section out of the book and draw a comic strip portraying the event in the story. Teachers can grade on correctly portraying the event, creativity and neatness.

Standards Covered:

Third Grade	English/ Language Arts	3.2.9; 3.2.4; 3.3.3; 3.6.1; 3.5.5
Forth Grade	English/ Language Arts	4.2.8; 4.2.9; 4.3.2; 4.4.2; 4.6.1
Fifth Grade	English/ Language Arts	5.3.2; 5.3.3; 5.3.8; 5.4.11; 5.4.5
Sixth Grade	English/ Language Arts	6.5.7; 6.5.6; 6.2.3; 6.2.4; 6.3.9

After reading the book or after reading certain parts students should get into groups, pick a section out of the book and recreate it in the form of a play. Teachers can grade the script the students wrote and the performance.

Standards Covered:

Third Grade	English/ Language Arts	3.3.3; 3.5.5; 3.7.5; 3.7.6; 3.7.8
Forth Grade	English/ Language Arts	4.2.8; 4.4.2; 4.7.2; 4.7.9; 4.7.17
Fifth Grade	English/ Language Arts	5.3.2; 5.4.11; 5.7.0; 5.7.4; 5.7.6
Sixth Grade	English/ Language Arts	6.5.7; 6.2.3; 6.7.5; 6.7.10; 6.7.17

Bibliography

<http://www.pammunozryan.com/index.html>

<http://www.doe.in.gov/>

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