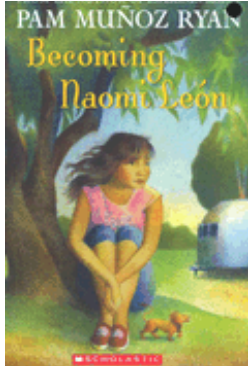




ELPL Lit Kits Jr.



Becoming Naomi León by Pam Muñoz Ryan

From the award-winning author of "Esperanza Rising" comes a riveting novel about family and identity, drawn from the warmth, wisdom, and love of Ryan's own Mexican and Oklahoman heritages.

About the Author: Pam Muñoz Ryan is the recipient of the NEA's Human and Civil Rights Award and the Virginia Hamilton Literary Award for multicultural literature. She has written more than thirty books which have garnered, among countless accolades, the Pura Belpre Medal, the Jane Addams Award, and the Schneider Family Award. Pam lives near San Diego.

Discussion Questions:

1. Why does Naomi speak so softly? Does she act differently at school than she does at home? Why is it so easy for her to make friends with Blanca?
2. What makes life in Lemon Tree so special to Naomi and Owen?
3. Which are the important friendships portrayed in the story? What does friendship mean to people and how does it affect their lives?
4. Look carefully at the names of the chapters. Why does the author name each chapter a group of animals? How the collective nouns describe the animals? How do they relate to what is happening in each chapter?
5. What was your impression of Skyla when we first meet her? How about Clive?
6. Names are important in this book. In what ways did you see people's names having an effect on their actions? (Skyla, Leon, Soledad, Outlaw, Sapphire)
7. Why did Skyla leave her children with Gram?
8. Why did Skyla want Naomi to live with her? Why didn't Skyla want Owen?
9. Do you think Naomi should live with her mother? Why or why not?

10. What kind of problems did Owen have? How did his appearance affect the way people treated him?
11. What do you think was the significance of the tape on Owen's shirt? Why tape instead of a blanket or other comfort item?
12. Do you agree with the judge that siblings should never be separated? Do you think children should always be with their natural parents?
13. Do you think Skyla would have really hurt Gram?
14. What did Naomi learn about herself and her family in Mexico?
15. Naomi likes to make lists—why do you think she does this? One of her lists is of “splendid words”—were there any words from the book you would add to her list?