

## Making Mama's Yarn Doll

### *Esperanza Rising* by Pam Munoz Ryan

Mama made a yarn doll for the child on the train (much to Esperanza's chagrin at the time). You can create one, too! You'll need a ball of yarn, scissors, a ruler and a book (at least the size of this one, no smaller) to wrap the yarn around.

1. Cut seven 12" long pieces of yarn and set them aside. You'll use these later.
2. Holding the ball of yarn in one hand and the book in the other, wrap the yarn around the book from top to bottom 50 times. Then cut the yarn to separate it from the ball.
3. Use one of the 12" pieces of yarn and place it between the book and the yarn. (Imagine you are putting the yarn through the center of a doughnut.) Tightly tie together the 50 strands of yarn wrapped around the book.
4. Pull the yarn off the book. Hold the yarn loop so the tie is at the top. This will be the top of your doll's head. Tie another 12" piece of yarn an inch or two below the first one, gathering all 100 strands of yarn to create a round head. Tie it tightly with a double knot.
5. Cut the yarn loops apart at the end opposite the head. These strands of yarn will be used to make the doll's body and limbs.
6. Separate the yarn below the head into three sections – two arms (12 strands each) and the torso (26 strands). Tie a 12" piece of yarn around the middle section, 2 inches below the head, to form the doll's torso. Remember to leave the arms free.
7. Separate the bottom yarn below the torso into two legs. Braid each arm and leg and use the 4 remaining 12" pieces of yarn to tie at each end. Leave at least an inch of loose yarn at the ends as hands and feet. Trim any stray yarn.

Now your yarn doll is complete!

This page was re-typed verbatim from the Scholastic edition of the novel, *Esperanza Rising* by Pam Munoz Ryan.