

PANCHO AND LEFTY – EXERCISES – TEACHER’S GUIDE

Rhymes:

- clean / kerosene - cry / goodbye - seems / dreams -
- steel / feel - know / Mexico - heard / word -
- say / day / away - goes / suppose -
- south / mouth - low / Ohio / go - knows / suppose -
- tell / fell / hotel - cold / told / old - true / too / do -

Questions:

What are the names of the two characters in this song? [Pancho and Lefty]

What are the three place names in the song? (One is a country, one is a state, one is a city.)

[Mexico - Ohio- Cleveland]

Which word refers to law officers (like police) of the national government? [federales]

What word means ‘robber’ or ‘thief’? [bandit]

Synopsis: Choose the blue words that fit.

There was once a [bandit - poet - singer] named Pancho. He had a [bandit - partner - cop] called Lefty. Lefty [betrayed - hated - sang a song to] Pancho. The police [arrested - gave money to - sang a song to] Lefty for it. When the police found Pancho, they [arrested - killed - sang a song to] him.

Questions for Discussion:

What does ‘bread’ mean in this song? [money]

What does the expression “to bite the dust” mean? [to die] How is it used in the song?

Find three other expressions in the song that refer to Pancho “biting the dust”.

["met his match" - "they laid poor Pancho low" - "Pancho fell"]

What phrase suggests that Pancho’s death was a lonely one?

["Nobody heard his dying word."]

What phrases suggests that Lefty’s life now is not a happy one?

["Lefty’s living in a cheap hotel" - "Cleveland’s cold" - "And now he’s growing old"]