

“Walk-Out en Crystal City”

by Rumel Fuentes

As you listen to this song, underline or circle statements in the lyrics that provide clues about its meaning.

Fue en un día de noviembre
Del año sesenta y nueve,
Se hallaron con muchos líos
Los gringos de Crystal City.

It happened one day in November
In nineteen sixty-nine,
When they found themselves in trouble,
The whites of Crystal City

Todas las autoridades
Eran gringo-americanos,
Se manejaban muy bien los México-
Americanos.

The authorities
Were white-Americans,
They managed quite well, the Mexican-
Americans .

La huelga empieza en la escuela
Después de tanta injusticia;
Allí declaró los malos
La estudianta, Severita.

The strike begins at school
after so much injustice;
There she denounced the wrong-doings
Severita, the student.

Continue to underline or circle statements in the lyrics that provide clues about its meaning. Why do you think the students walked out? What do you think they were they protesting?

Luego el grupo de estudiantes
Fueron a la capital,
Con senadores y todo
Fueron a conferenciar.

Then the group of students
Went to the capital
Together, senators and all
They went to conference.

Llegaron los federales
Vienen para investigar.
La gente está en su derecho
Esto ya se va a arreglar.

Federal officers arrived,
They came to investigate.
The people have rights
This must be fixed now.

La situación ya ha cambiado
La Virgen Guadalupana;
Comenzó aquí en Crystal City,
Al Dios dirá pa’ mañana.

She has changed the situation
The Virgin of Guadalupe;
It began here in Crystal City,
God will say what tomorrow brings