

W F – Teacher's copy

info: Leon Rosselson (born 22 June 1934, Harrow, Middlesex, England)[1] is an English songwriter and writer of children's books. After his early involvement in the folk music revival in Britain, he came to prominence, singing his own satirical songs, in the BBC's topical TV programme of the early 1960s, That Was The Week That Was.[2] He toured Britain and abroad, singing mainly his own songs and accompanying himself with acoustic guitar.[1]

In later years, he has published 17 children's books, the first of which, Rosa's Singing Grandfather, was shortlisted in 1991 for the Carnegie Medal.

He continues to write and perform his own songs, and to collaborate with other musicians and performers. Most of his material includes some sort of satirical content or elements of radical politics.

Song: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7vnLt7R6y9M>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qqy8vY5uExc>

BOYS WILL BE BOYS by Leon Rosselson

1. The following words appear, in that order, in the first stanza of the poem. Can you make sense of them? What is the poem talking about?

Look / little / Peter - Isn't / terror / shooting / neighbours / cowboy gun?

Screaming / jet plane - Always throwing something.

I / can't control - Trouble? - He / one.

Boys / boys - Fact / human nature - Girls / grow up / mothers.

Now listen to the [first stanza](#) of the poem. Were you right?

Think of the following questions:

- Which words did you need to make sense of the poem?
- Listen again and complete the following verse:

Shooting all neighbours cowboy gun

Which words did you hear that - most probably - did not change your idea of the content of the poem before you listened to it?

Which words did you need to make sense of the poem?

CONTENT WORDS

Which words did you hear that did **not** change your idea of the content of the poem before you listened to it?

FUNCTIONAL WORDS

2. Listen to the [second stanza](#) of the poem, and fill in the blanks with the words you hear.

Look at little Janie, doesn't she look pretty
 Playing with her dolly, proper little mum?
 Never being dirty, never being noisy,
 Don't touch your sister, Peter, now look what you 've done!!
 Ah, but boys will be boys,
 It's a fact of human nature,
and girls will grow up to be mothers.

All the missing words are **weak forms**. Transcribe them as they are produced in the poem. Which vowels are used? Are there any consonants elided?

<a>	ə	<be>	bi	<he>	hi	<of>	əv
<and>	ən	<but>	bət	<her>	hə	<the>	ðə
<at>	ət	<have>	v	<him>	ɪm	<to>	tə

3. This is the next stanza. **Transcribe it**, paying special attention to **weak forms**.

Now what's come over Janie? Janie's turning nasty!
 Left hook to the body, right hook to the eye!
 Vicious little hussy! Now, Peter's started bawling!
 What a bloody cissy! Who said you could cry?!

Listen to the [third stanza](#) and check.

naʊ wɒts klɪm əʊvə dʒeɪni / dʒeɪnɪz tɜːnɪŋ nɑːstɪ /

left hʊk tə ðə bɒdi / raɪt hʊk tə ði aɪ /

vɪʃəs ɪtl hʌsi / naʊ piːtəz stɑːtɪd bəʊlɪŋ

wɒt ə blɑːdi sɪsi / huː sed ju kʊd kraɪ /

- Why do you think <the> is pronounced differently in <to *the* body> and in <to *the* eye>? What is the rule?

4. Read the end of the poem, which has been transcribed by an online app, disregarding weak forms. Listen to the [fourth stanza](#) and mark the sounds or words which are different from the transcription.

naʊ ðiː wɜːld hæz ɡɒn tɒpsi tɜːvi / dʒeɪni wɒnts eɪ fʊtbɔːl

ænd piːtə dʒʌst siːmz hæpi ɹʊʃɪŋ præmz əlɒŋ /

ɪt meɪks juː fiːl səʊ ɡɪlti / kɪdz ɑː slʌʃ eɪ wʌri /

dɒktə dɒktə tel mi / weə dɪd wiː ɡəʊ rɒŋ /

bɪkɒz bɔɪz mʌst biː bɔɪz / ɪt ɪz eɪ fækt ɒv hjuːmən neɪtʃə /

ænd ɡɜːlz mʌst ɡrəʊ ʌp tuː biː mʌðəz /

naʊ ðə wɜːldz ɡɒn tɒpsi tɜːvi / dʒeɪni wɒnts ə fʊtbɔːl

ən piːtə dʒəst siːmz hæpi ɹʊʃɪŋ præmz əlɒŋ /

ɪt meɪks ju fiːl səʊ ɡɪlti / kɪdz ə slʌʃ ə wʌri /

dɒktə dɒktə tel mi / weə dɪd wi ɡəʊ rɒŋ /

bɪkɒz bɔɪz mʌst bi bɔɪz / ɪts ə fækt əv hjuːmən neɪtʃə /

ən ɡɜːlz mʌst ɡrəʊ ʌp tə bi mʌðəz /