

Texas Heroes: Deaf Smith and Emily West

Reading Guide

Fighting, fighting
Tejas fights with a goal:
to break away from México now
and to flee Santa Ana's control.



Why was Texas fighting?

Fighting, fighting
Mexico fights back.
Texas wants to make its own rules,
Mexico is under attack.

"El Sordo, El Sordo,"
it means "the deaf one."
When Deaf Smith moved to Texas,
his journey had just begun.



Who El Sordo?

Watching, watching
Deaf Smith is perched in his tree
to watch the Mexican troops,
who are preparing diligently.

"Familia, familia!"
The Mexican soldiers refuse.
They won't let him see his family,
so he knows what he has to do.

"Te amo, te amo!"
Deaf Smith signs.
He doesn't *want* to pick,
but he chooses the Texian side.



Why did Deaf Smith choose sides?

Watching, watching
with laser-sharp eyes.
They cannot slip his gaze
or catch him by surprise.



Why couldn't they catch him by surprise?

Galloping, galloping
The horses gallop ahead.
They belong to the Mexican soldiers,
and he has the message spread.

¡Cuidado! ¡Cuidado!
The Texian soldiers attack.
Tejas wins *The Grass Fight*,
but México fights back.



What does "cuidado" mean?

San Antone, San Antone,
México claims their place.
Texians want the Alamo,
but México won't be erased.

Messages, messages
Deaf Smith delivers.
He tells of the ongoing Alamo battle,
and it makes Sam Houston shiver.



Why did Sam Houston shiver?

¡Victoria! ¡Victoria!
The battle ends with victory.
The Mexican soldiers win that day,
but Tejas does not accept defeat.

"Hurry, hurry!"
Sam Houston tells Deaf Smith to go back,
back to see if the Mexican army
had succeeded in their attack.



Where does Sam Houston want Deaf Smith to go?

¡Por Dios, Por Dios!
Deaf Smith pleads and cries.
Texian soldiers lay everywhere,
so many of them have died.

Fighting, fighting
Deaf Smith fights on.
He fights for a home in Texas,
for his family to belong.

Freedom, freedom
Emily West is free.
Older people in her family
had been forced into slavery.

Working, working
While Emily sweeps, she dreams.
She would go on to show courage
as bright as the floors she cleaned.

Cleaning, cleaning
Until the end of the day.
Then Emily West
Lays down to rest
Until she is startled awake.

Yelling, yelling
"Who are you?" she cries,
It's the Mexican army,
they force her outside!

"Breathe, breathe,"
Emily thinks in fear.
They bring her to the war zone,
where the strangest sight appears.

Watching, watching
A man stands to watch.
His eyes gaze intently,
as the Mexican soldiers talk.

Back and forth, back and forth,
the soldiers make their plans.
All the while, the man makes scribbles
as he watches to understand.

}

Was Emily West a slave?

}

What is Emily West's job?

}

Who captures Emily West?

}

Who is the man gazing at the soldiers?

Spying, spying
At San Jacinto, Deaf Smith waits,
for just the right moment
when the Texians will invade.



Whose side is Emily West on? Mexico or Texas?

Carefully, carefully
Emily catches his eye.
She nods her head to let him know
that she is on his side.

A squint of the eyes to understand,
the words on someone's mouth.
A smile so bright to let people know
that she wasn't a threat in the South.



How can he understand the words?

Tiptoe, tiptoe,
the two work as a pair.
So that Santana will not suspect
that the Texian troops are there.

Watching, watching
Deaf Smith watches her back,
while Emily tips a glass of wine
onto his plans of attack.

"They come, they come!"
The Mexican side cries,
Their leader is missing, and they will lose,
they fearfully realize.



Who is coming?

"Victory, victory!"
Texas had won the war.
Not everything was perfect,
but it felt worth fighting for.

Oppression, oppression
Deaf Smith had fought to escape.
Yet Texas was treating black and brown people
with the same destructive hate.

¡Por Dios, Por Dios!
Deaf Smith and his family cried.
This Texas that he fought for,
did not always bring them pride.



Why didn't Texas always bring them pride?

Yellow Rose, Yellow Rose.
Deaf Smith remembered her bravery.
She helped Texas win the revolution,
and now they wanted her in slavery?

Deaf, Deaf.
Brown, brown.
Mistreated and oppressed,
then honored and renown.



What is meant by "renown"?

Legends and legends
have been told and retold.
Maybe some truth
in these fables of old.



Do you think this is a true story?

Stories and stories,
they *all* use imagination.
We don't know exactly how the war unfolded,
but it shaped our state and our nation.

Learning, learning, Texans, young and old,
learn from our ancestors' wrongs and rights.
Just because we won the battle
doesn't mean we've won the fight.