

Everyone considered him the coward of the county.
Had never stood one single time to prove the county wrong.
His mama named him Tommy, the folks just called him Yellow,
But something always told me they were reading Tommy wrong.

He was only ten years old when his daddy died in prison.
I looked after Tommy cause he was my brothers son.
I still recall the final words my brother said to Tommy:
Son, my life is over, but yours is just begun.

CHORUS

*Promise me, son, not to do the things I've done.
Walk away from trouble if you can.
It don't mean you're weak if you turn the other cheek.
I hope you're old enough to understand:
Son, you don't have to fight to be a man.*

There's someone for everyone and Tommy's love was Becky.
In her arms he didn't have to prove he was a man.
One day while he was working the gambling boys came calling.
They took turns at Becky.... there was three of them!

Tommy opened up the door and saw his Becky crying.
The torn dress, the shattered look was more than he could stand.
He reached above the fireplace and took down his daddy's picture.
As his tears fell on his daddy's face, he heard these words again:

CHORUS

The gambling boys just laughed at him when he walked into the barroom.
One of them got up and met him halfway cross the floor.
When Tommy turned around they said, hey look! old Yellow's leaving.
But you could've heard a pin drop when Tommy stopped and blocked the door.

Twenty years of crawling was bottled up inside him.
He wasn't holding nothing back; he let them have it all.
When Tommy left the barroom not a gambling boy was standing.
He said, this one's for Becky, as he watched the last one fall.
And I heard him say,

*I promised you, dad, not to do the things you done.
I walk away from trouble when I can.
Now please don't think I'm weak, I didn't turn the other cheek,
And papa, I sure hope you understand:
Sometimes you gotta fight when you're a man.*

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1.- BEFORE LISTENING QUESTIONS

- 1.- How do you say “ Valiente” in English?
- 2.- In your own words, what does a brave person do?
- 3.- What is the opposite of brave?
- 4.- In your own opinion, what makes a man?

2.- AFTER LISTENING TO THE SONG

- 1.- Translate the song.
- 2.- What is the plot of the song?
- 3.- Why do people in the county laugh at Tommy?
- 3.- What’s the message of the song?
- 4.- Who was Tommy first advised by?
- 5.- What advice did he receive?
- 6.- What is the turning point in Tommy’s behaviour?
- 7.- Write the words or phrases in the song that are related to cowardice.
- 8.- Do you find any similarities between the story you’ve just listened to and the world around you? In other words, is there any kind of connection between what happened in “the coward of the county” song and the real world around you?

