

Amigo Brothers

by Piri Thomas

BACKGROUND:

This story is about two friends (amigos in Spanish) living on the Lower East Side of New York City. Many boys from the Lower East Side have dreamed of building a better life by winning the New York Golden Gloves, a boxing tournament started in 1927 by Paul Gallico, a newspaper writer. This tournament marks an amateur's entry into the world of big-time boxing.



Antonio Cruz and Felix Vargas were both seventeen years old. They were so together in friendship that they felt themselves to be brothers. They had known each other since childhood, growing up on the Lower East Side of Manhattan in the same tenement¹ building on Fifth Street between Avenue A and Avenue B.

Antonio was fair, lean, and lanky, while Felix was dark, short, and husky. Antonio's hair was always falling over his eyes, while Felix wore his black hair in a natural Afro style. Each youngster had a dream of someday becoming the lightweight champion of the world. Every chance they had, the boys worked out, sometimes at the Boys' Club on 10th Street and Avenue A and sometimes at the pro's gym on 14th Street. Early morning sunrises would find them running along the East River Drive, wrapped in sweat shirts, short towels around their necks, and handkerchiefs Apache style around their foreheads.



While some youngsters were into street negatives, Antonio and Felix slept, ate, rapped, and dreamt positive. Between them, they had a collection of Fight magazines second to none, plus a scrapbook filled with torn tickets to every boxing match they had ever attended, and some clippings of their own. If asked a question about any given fighter, they would immediately zip out from their memory banks divisions, weights, records of fights, knockouts, technical knockouts, and draws or losses.

READING CHECK:

1. What are the names of the two main characters?

- A. Juan & Jaime
- B. Antonio & Fernando
- C. Anthony & Felix
- D. Felix & Antonio

2. Go back to the text. Underline the characteristics that show how the characters are similar.

3. Why do you think the author wants us to know this?

- A. To show that they are close and like one another
- B. To show that they are family and are different
- C. To show that even though they are similar, they are not close
- D. To show that even though they are similar, they are very different

¹ tenement n. used as adj.: apartment. Tenement buildings are often cheaply built and poorly maintained



Each had fought many bouts representing their community and had won two gold-plated medals plus a silver and bronze medallion. The difference was in their style.

Antonio’s lean form and long reach made him the better boxer, while Felix’s short and muscular frame made him the better slugger. Whenever they had met in the ring for sparring sessions², it had always been hot and heavy.



Now, after a series of elimination bouts, they had been informed that they were to meet each other in the division finals that were scheduled for the seventh of August, two weeks away— the winner to represent the Boys’ Club in the Golden Gloves Championship Tournament. The two boys continued to run together along the East River Drive. But even when joking with each other, they both sensed a wall rising between them.

READING CHECK:

1. How does the author contrast the two boxers’ style?

Antonio	Felix
•	•

2. What is the potential conflict, as introduced in the passage above?

- A. The 2 friends cannot attend the competition.
- B. The 2 friends will have to fight each other in the competition.
- C. The 2 friends are worried they will not be able to train enough.
- D. The 2 friends are no longer friends.

3. What literary device is “...they both sensed a wall riding between them” and what does it mean?

- A. Metaphor: They are being separated by their neighborhood
- B. Simile: They are comparing their strength to a wall
- C. Metaphor: They are becoming more distant in their friendship
- D. Simile: They are comparing their rise in boxing to a wall

One morning less than a week before their bout, they met as usual for their daily workout. They fooled around with a few jabs at the air, slapped skin, and then took off, running lightly along the dirty East River’s

² sparring sessions: practice matches in which boxers use light punches.

edge. Antonio glanced at Felix, who kept his eyes purposely straight ahead, pausing from time to time to do some fancy leg work while throwing one-twos followed by uppercuts to an imaginary jaw.

Antonio then beat the air with a barrage of body blows and short devastating lefts with an overhead jaw-breaking right.

After a mile or so, Felix puffed and said, “Let’s stop a while, bro. I think we both got something to say to each other.” Antonio nodded. It was not natural to be acting as though nothing unusual was happening when two **ace-boon buddies** were going to be blasting each other within a few short days.

They rested their elbows on the railing separating them from the river. Antonio wiped his face with his short towel. The sunrise was now creating day. Felix leaned heavily on the river’s railing and stared across to the shores of Brooklyn. Finally, he broke the silence.

“Man. I don’t know how to come out with it.”

Antonio helped. “It’s about our fight, right?”

“Yeah, right.” Felix’s eyes squinted at the rising orange sun.

“I’ve been thinking about it too, panin³. In fact, since we found out it was going to be me and you, I’ve been awake at night, pulling punches on you, trying not to hurt you.”

“Same here. It ain’t natural not to think about the fight. I mean, we both are cheverote⁴ fighters and we both want to win. But only one of us can win. There ain’t no draws in the eliminations.”

Felix tapped Antonio gently on the shoulder. “I don’t mean to sound like I’m bragging, bro. But I wanna win, fair and square.”

READING CHECK:

4. Using context clues, what do you think *ace-boon buddies* means?

- A. Fake friends
- B. Best Friends
- C. Only friends at school
- D. Not friends at all

5. If Felix says that he wants to win fair and square, what might the reader infer?

- A. The boys are going to fight to show off their skills
- B. Felix thinks that Antonio is going to cheat
- C. The boys don’t want to hurt each other, but have trained to win
- D. They are not ready to fight

Antonio nodded quietly. “Yeah. We both know that in the ring the better man wins. Friend or no friend, brother or no ...”

Felix finished it for him. “Brother. Tony, let’s promise something right here. OK?”

“If it’s fair, hermano⁵, I’m for it.” Antonio admired the courage of a tugboat pulling a barge five times its welter-weight size.

³ panin (PAH NEEN) n.: Puerto Rican Spanish slang for “pal” or “buddy.”

⁴ cheverote (CHEH VEH RO TEH) adj.: Puerto Rican Spanish slang for “the greatest.”

⁵ hermano: (EHR MAH NOH) n.: Spanish for “brother.”

“It’s fair, Tony. When we get into the ring, it’s gotta be like we never met. We gotta be like two heavy strangers that want the same thing and only one can have it. You understand, don’t cha?”



“Sí, I know.” Tony smiled. “No pulling punches. We go all the way.”

“Yeah, that’s right. Listen, Tony. Don’t you think it’s a good idea if we don’t see each other until the day of the fight? I’m going to stay with my Aunt Lucy in the Bronx. I can use Gleason’s Gym for working out. My manager says he got some sparring partners with more or less your style.”

Tony scratched his nose **pensively**. “Yeah, it would be better for our heads.” He held out his hand, palm upward. “Deal?”

“Deal.” Felix lightly slapped open skin.

“Ready for some more running?” Tony asked lamely.

“Naw, bro. Let’s cut it here. You go on. I kinda like to get things together in my head.”

“You ain’t worried, are you?” Tony asked.

“No way, man.” Felix laughed out loud.

“I got too much smarts for that. I just think it’s cooler if we split right here. After the fight, we can get it together again like nothing ever happened.”

The amigo brothers were not ashamed to hug each other tightly.

“Guess you’re right. Watch yourself, Felix. I hear there’s some pretty heavy dudes up in the Bronx. Suavecito⁶, OK?”

“OK. You watch yourself too, sabe⁷?”

READING CHECK:

6. The author claims that the tugboat has courage. What literary device is this?

- A. Metaphor
- B. Simile
- C. Hyperbole
- D. Personification

7. Using context clues, what does the word *pensive* mean?

- A. Scared
- B. Thinking
- C. Happy
- D. Bored

8. Why did the boys choose to separate until the meet?

- A. They wanted to keep a strong hold on their friendship
- B. They didn’t want people to think they are enemies
- C. They no longer want to be friends
- D. They are going to quit the competition

⁶ suavecito (SWAH VEH SEE TOH) adj.: Puerto Rican Spanish slang for “cool.”

⁷ sabe (SAH BEH) v.: Spanish for “you know.”

9. The author refers to the boys as “Amigo brothers.” Knowing that amigo means friends, what is the reader supposed to understand regarding the boys?

- A. They have the same mom and are really close
- B. They are actually cousins and not brothers
- C. They only speak Spanish
- D. They are close friends that are like family

10. What literary device is the following sentence: **We gotta get going to get the gear from Gleason’s gym?**

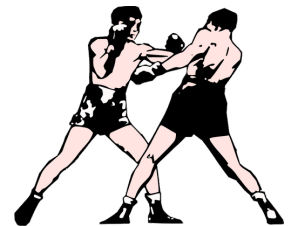
- A. Alliteration
- B. Allusion
- C. Assonance
- D. Hyperbole

Tony jogged away. Felix watched his friend disappear from view, throwing rights and lefts. Both fighters had a lot of psyching up to do before the big fight. The days in training passed much too slowly. Although they kept out of each other’s way, they were aware of each other’s progress via the ghetto grapevine. The evening before the big fight, Tony made his way to the roof of his tenement.

In the quiet early dark, he peered over the ledge. Six stories below, the lights of the city blinked and the sounds of cars mingled with the curses and the laughter of children in the street. He tried not to think of Felix, feeling he had succeeded in psyching his mind. But only in the ring would he really know.

To spare Felix hurt, he would have to knock him out, early and quick.

Up in the South Bronx, Felix decided to take in a movie in an effort to keep Antonio’s face away from his fists. The flick was *The Champion* with Kirk Douglas, the third time Felix was seeing it. The champion was getting beaten, his face being pounded into raw, wet hamburger.



His eyes were cut, jagged, bleeding, one eye swollen, the other almost shut. He was saved only by the sound of the bell. Felix became the champ and Tony the challenger. The movie audience was going out of its head, roaring in blood lust at the butchery going on. The champ hunched his shoulders, grunting and sniffing red blood back into his broken nose.

The challenger, confident that he had the championship in the bag, threw a left. The champ countered with a dynamite right that exploded into the challenger’s brains.

Felix’s right arm felt the shock. Antonio’s face, superimposed on the screen, was shattered and split apart by the awesome force of the killer blow. Felix saw himself in the ring, blasting Antonio against the ropes. The champ had to be forcibly restrained. The challenger was allowed to crumble slowly to the canvas, a broken bloody mess.

READING CHECK:

11. Felix is having issues with himself on how to deal with a situation. What is this an example of?

- A. Dialogue
- B. Denotation

- C. Internal Conflict
- D. External Conflict

12. Felix goes to watch a movie when he is struggling. What can the reader infer about him?

- A. He just got the tickets for the film
- B. He is wanting to distract himself so he can avoid
- C. He wants to get boxing tips
- D. He is hoping Antonio wins

When Felix finally left the theater, he had figured out how to psych himself for tomorrow's fight. It was Felix the Champion vs. Antonio the Challenger.

He walked up some dark streets, deserted except for small pockets of wary-looking kids wearing gang colors. Despite the fact that he was Puerto Rican like them, they eyed him as a stranger to their turf. Felix did a fast shuffle, bobbing and weaving, while letting loose a **torrent of blows** that would **demolish** whatever got in its way. It seemed to impress the brothers, who went about their own business.

Finding no takers, Felix decided to split to his aunt's. Walking the streets had not relaxed him; neither had the fight flick. All it had done was to stir him up. He let himself quietly into his Aunt Lucy's apartment and went straight to bed, falling into a fitful sleep with sounds of the gong for Round One.

READING CHECK:

13. The author describes Felix letting loose a torrent of blows. The word torrent means flood or rush. Why would Felix let a torrent of punches here?

- A. He wanted to defend himself against his attackers
- B. He found Antonio on the street
- C. He wanted to prove that he was a tough boxer
- D. He wanted to practice and could not get into the gym

14. Using context clues, what does the word *demolished* mean?

- A. Protected
- B. Destroyed
- C. Saved
- D. Constructed

Antonio was passing some heavy time on his rooftop. How would the fight tomorrow affect his relationship with Felix? After all, fighting was like any other profession. Friendship had nothing to do with it. A gnawing doubt crept in. He cut negative thinking real quick by doing some speedy fancy dance steps, bobbing and weaving like mercury. The night air was blurred with perpetual motions of left hooks and right crosses. Felix, his amigo brother, was not going to be Felix at all in the ring. Just an opponent with another face. Antonio went to sleep, hearing the opening bell for the first round. Like his friend in the South Bronx, he prayed for victory via a quick clean knockout in the first round.

Large posters plastered all over the walls of local shops announced the fight between Antonio Cruz and Felix Vargas as the main bout.



The fight had created great interest in the neighborhood. Antonio and Felix were well liked and respected. Each had his own loyal following. Betting fever was high and ranged from a bottle of Coke to cold hard cash on the line.

Antonio's fans bet with unbridled faith in his boxing skills. On the other side, Felix's admirers bet on his dynamite-packed fists.

READING CHECK:

15. What does the author mean by “his amigo brother was not going to be Felix in the ring?”

- A. Felix dropped out and Antonio has a new opponent
- B. He was going to view his opponent as a loser
- C. He was going to make sure that Felix was taken out of the competition
- D. Antonio was not going to let his friendship get in the way of winning

16. The author writes, Like his friend in the South Bronx, he prayed for victory via a quick clean knockout in the first round. What literary device is this?

- A. Metaphor
- B. Simile
- C. Personification
- D. Hyperbole

17. What detail best supports the main idea that the community was excited for the match between Antonio & Felix?

- A. Antonio & Felix were respected
- B. There were posters around the neighborhood
- C. Both fighters were strong in their skills
- D. Betting fever was high to see who would be the winner

Felix had returned to his apartment early in the morning of August 7th and stayed there, hoping to avoid seeing Antonio. He turned the radio on to salsa music sounds and then tried to read while waiting for word from his manager.

The fight was scheduled to take place in Tompkins Square Park. It had been decided that the gymnasium of the Boys' Club was not large enough to hold all the people who were sure to attend. In Tompkins Square Park, everyone who wanted could view the fight, whether from ringside or window fire escapes or tenement rooftops.

The morning of the fight Tompkins Square was a beehive of activity with numerous workers setting up the ring, the seats, and the guest speakers' stand. The scheduled bouts began shortly after noon and the park had begun filling up even earlier.

READING CHECK:

18. Which detail supports the idea that Felix is continuing to avoid conflict?

- A. He goes home to his apartment early and stays in his room
- B. He turns the radio on
- C. He waits to hear from his manager
- D. He reads a book

19. The author writes that the “Square was a beehive of activity.” What literary device is this and what is the meaning?

- A. Hyperbole: The author is exaggerating the amount of activity
- B. Personification: The beehive is given human qualities of having activity
- C. Metaphor: The author is comparing the people to a busy beehive
- D. Alliteration: There is repetition of consonant sounds

The local junior high school across from Tompkins Square Park served as the dressing room for all the fighters.

Each was given a separate classroom with desk tops, covered with mats, serving as resting tables. Antonio thought he caught a glimpse of Felix waving to him from a room at the far end of the corridor. He waved back just in case it had been him.

The fighters changed from their street clothes into fighting gear. Antonio wore white trunks, black socks, and black shoes. Felix wore sky-blue trunks, red socks, and white boxing shoes. They had dressing gowns to match their fighting trunks with their names neatly stitched on the back. The loudspeakers blared into the open windows of the school.

There were speeches by dignitaries, community leaders, and great boxers of yesteryear. Some were well prepared; some improvised on the spot. They all carried the same message of great pleasure and honor at being part of such a historic event. This great day was in the tradition of champions emerging from the streets of the Lower East Side.

Interwoven with the speeches were the sounds of the other boxing events. After the sixth bout, Felix was much relieved when his trainer, Charlie, said, “Time change. Quick knockout. This is it. We’re on.”

READING CHECK:

20. The author is describing the sights and sounds of the environment. What literary device is this?

- A. Allusion
- B. Idiom
- C. Irony
- D. Imagery

Waiting time was over. Felix was escorted from the classroom by a dozen fans in white T-shirts with the word *felix* across their fronts.

Antonio was escorted down a different stairwell and guided through a roped-off path. As the two climbed into the ring, the crowd exploded with a roar.

Antonio and Felix both bowed gracefully and then raised their arms in acknowledgment.

Antonio tried to be cool, but even as the roar was in its first birth, he turned slowly to meet Felix’s eyes looking directly into his. Felix nodded his head and Antonio responded.

And both as one, just as quickly, turned away to face his own corner.

Bong—bong—bong. The roar turned to stillness.

“Ladies and Gentlemen, Señores y Señoras.”

The announcer spoke slowly, pleased at his bilingual efforts.

“Now the moment we have all been waiting for—the main event between two fine young Puerto Rican fighters, products of our Lower East Side.”

“Loisaida,” called out a member of the audience.

READING CHECK:

21. How are the boys feeling about fighting each other?

- A. They are nervous because they are best friends
- B. They are scared because they don't know if they will win
- C. They are excited because they trained for this
- D. They are happy because they always wanted

22. What literary device is BONG-BONG-BONG?

- A. Metaphor
- B. Onomatopoeia
- C. Simile
- D. Allusion

“In this corner, weighing 134 pounds, Felix Vargas. And in this corner, weighing 133 pounds, Antonio Cruz. The winner will represent the Boys' Club in the tournament of champions, the Golden Gloves. There will be no draw. May the best man win.”

The cheering of the crowd shook the window panes of the old buildings surrounding Tompkins Square Park. At the center of the ring, the referee was giving instructions to the youngsters.

“Keep your punches up. No low blows. No punching on the back of the head. Keep your heads up. Understand? Let's have a clean fight. Now shake hands and come out fighting.”

Both youngsters touched gloves and nodded. They turned and danced quickly to their corners. Their head towels and dressing gowns were lifted neatly from their shoulders by their trainers' nimble fingers.

Antonio crossed himself. Felix did the same.

BONG! BONG! ROUND ONE.

Felix and Antonio turned and faced each other squarely in a fighting pose. Felix wasted no time. He came in fast, head low, half-hunched toward his right shoulder, and lashed out with a straight left. He missed a right cross as Antonio slipped the punch and countered with one-two-three lefts that snapped Felix's head back, sending a mild shock coursing through him. If Felix had any small doubt about their friendship affecting their fight, it was being neatly dispelled.

Antonio danced, a joy to behold. His left hand was like a piston pumping jabs one right after another with seeming ease. Felix bobbed and weaved and never stopped boring in. He knew that at long range he was



at a disadvantage. Antonio had too much reach on him. Only by coming in close could Felix hope to achieve the dreamed-of knockout.

Antonio knew the dynamite that was stored in his amigo brother's fist. He ducked a short right and missed a left hook. Felix trapped him against the ropes just long enough to pour some punishing rights and lefts to Antonio's hard midsection. Antonio slipped away from Felix, crashing two lefts to his head, which set Felix's right ear to ringing.

READING CHECK:

23. What is an example of external conflict in the story?

- A. The crowd
- B. The announcer
- C. The boxing match
- D. The rules of the match

24. How is their friendship affecting the fight?

- A. They are pulling back punches to protect one another
- B. They are intentionally losing so the friend can win
- C. It isn't; they are fighting their opponent to win
- D. It is making it hard to see who will win

Bong! Both amigos froze a punch well on its way, sending up a roar of approval for good sportsmanship.

Felix walked briskly back to his corner. His right ear had not stopped ringing.

Antonio gracefully danced his way toward his stool none the worse, except for glowing glove burns showing angry red against the whiteness of his midribs.

"Watch that right, Tony." His trainer talked into his ear.

"Remember Felix always goes to the body. He'll want you to drop your hands for his overhand left or right. Got it?"

Antonio nodded, spraying water out between his teeth. He felt better as his sore midsection was being firmly rubbed.

Felix's corner was also busy.

"You gotta get in there, fella." Felix's trainer poured water over his curly Afro locks. "Get in there or he's gonna chop you up from way back."

Bong! Bong! Round two.

Felix was off his stool and rushed Antonio like a bull, sending a hard right to his head. Beads of water exploded from Antonio's long hair.

Antonio, hurt, sent back a blurring barrage of lefts and rights that only meant pain to Felix, who returned with a short left to the head followed by a looping right to the body. Antonio countered with his own flurry, forcing Felix to give ground. But not for long.

Felix bobbed and weaved, bobbed and weaved, occasionally punching his two gloves together.



Antonio waited for the rush that was sure to come. Felix closed in and fainted with his left shoulder and threw a right instead. Lights suddenly exploded inside Felix's head as Antonio slipped the blow and hit him with a piston-like left, catching him flush on the point of his chin.

Bedlam broke loose as Felix's legs momentarily buckled. He fought off a series of rights and lefts and came back with a strong right that taught Antonio respect.

Antonio danced in carefully. He knew Felix had the habit of playing possum when hurt, to sucker an opponent within reach of the powerful bombs he carried in each fist.

READING CHECK:

25. What role do the coaches play in the corner?

- A. To remind the boxer of what they need to do
- B. To show the boxer the moves of the opponent
- C. To provide support for the boxer
- D. All of the Above

26. Why would Felix pretend to be hurt?

- A. The opponent would get closer and then he would hit them
- B. He would hope the opponent would let up on him
- C. The opponent would quit the fight
- D. He would have the opportunity to forfeit

27. Based on the details in this passage, how does the friendship of the boys affect the fight?

- A. The boys are considering forfeiting the fight
- B. They are hurting each other because they are no longer friends
- C. They know each other's skills because they are close
- D. It doesn't because they stopped being friends long ago

A right to the head slowed Antonio's pretty dancing. He answered with his own left at Felix's right eye that began puffing up within three seconds.

Antonio, a bit too eager, moved in too close, and Felix had him entangled into a rip-roaring, punching toe-to-toe slugfest that brought the whole Tompkins Square Park screaming to its feet.

Rights to the body. Lefts to the head. Neither fighter was giving an inch. Suddenly a short right caught Antonio squarely on the chin. His long legs turned to jelly and his arms flailed out desperately. Felix, grunting like a bull, threw wild punches from every direction. Antonio, groggy, bobbed and weaved, evading most of the blows. Suddenly his head cleared. His left flashed out hard and straight, catching Felix on the bridge of his nose.

Felix lashed back with a haymaker, right off the ghetto streets. At the same instant, his eye caught another left hook from Antonio. Felix swung out, trying to clear the pain. Only the **frenzied** screaming of those along ringside let him know that he had dropped Antonio. Fighting off the growing haze, Antonio struggled to his feet, got up, ducked, and threw a smashing right that dropped Felix flat on his back.

Felix got up as fast as he could in his own corner, groggy but still game. He didn't even hear the count. In a fog, he heard the roaring of the crowd, who seemed to have gone insane. His head cleared to hear the bell sound at the end of the round. He was glad. His trainer sat him down on the stool.

In his corner, Antonio was doing what all fighters do when they are hurt. They sit and smile at everyone.

The referee signaled the ring doctor to check the fighters out. He did so and then gave his OK. The cold-water sponges brought clarity to both amigo brothers. They were rubbed until their circulation ran free.

Bong! Round three—the final round. Up to now it had been tic-tac-toe, pretty much even. But everyone knew there could be no draw and that this round would decide the winner.

READING CHECK:

28. Using context clues, what does the word frenzied mean?

- A. Loud
- B. Wild
- C. Calm
- D. Together

29. The author writes, “In a fog, he heard the roaring of the crowd..” What literary device is the phrase “in a fog,” and what does it mean?

- A. Idiom: Confused
- B. Hyperbole: Focused
- C. Personification: Animated
- D. Irony: Still

30. If Antonio was hurt, why would he smile at everyone?

- A. He believes that his opponent is a loser
- B. He is excited to take a break
- C. He wants to reassure everyone that he is okay
- D. He want Felix to know he hurt him

This time, to Felix's surprise, it was Antonio who came out fast, charging across the ring. Felix braced himself but couldn't ward off the barrage of punches. Antonio drove Felix hard against the ropes.



The crowd ate it up. Thus far the two had fought with mucho corazón⁸. Felix tapped his gloves and commenced his attack anew. Antonio, throwing boxer's caution to the winds, jumped in to meet him.

Both pounded away. Neither gave an inch and neither fell to the canvas. Felix's left eye was tightly closed. Claret-red blood poured from Antonio's nose. They fought toe-to-toe.

The sounds of their blows were loud in contrast to the silence of a crowd gone completely mute. The referee was stunned by their savagery.

Bong! Bong! Bong! The bell sounded over and over again. Felix and Antonio were past hearing. Their blows continued to pound on each other like hailstones.

⁸ mucho corazón (MOO CHO KO RA SOHN): Spanish for “a lot of heart.”

Finally the referee and the two trainers pried Felix and Antonio apart. Cold water was poured over them to bring them back to their senses.

They looked around and then rushed toward each other. A cry of alarm surged through Tompkins Square Park. Was this a fight to the death instead of a boxing match?

READING CHECK:

31. How does the third round contrast against the first 2?

- A. The first two rounds were rough and now they are tired
- B. The first two rounds did not interest the crowd, but now they are excited
- C. The first two rounds were play fighting and now they are going to give up
- D. The first two rounds were calculated, but now they are not holding back

32. Why do you think this round is so different from the others?

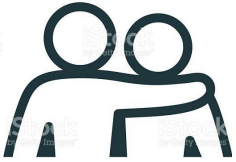
- A. The fighters are overcome with emotion
- B. The fighters want to give up
- C. The fighters hate one another
- D. The fighters want to kill each other

The fear soon gave way to wave upon wave of cheering as the two amigos embraced.

No matter what the decision, they knew they would always be champions to each other.

BONG! BONG! BONG! “Ladies and Gentlemen. Señores and Señoras. The winner and representative to the Golden Gloves Tournament of Champions is ...”

The announcer turned to point to the winner and found himself alone. Arm in arm the champions had already left the ring.



READING CHECK:

33. What element of literature is the author imploring in the last paragraph of the short story?

- A. Irony
- B. Suspense
- C. Flashback
- D. Allusion

34. What theme might this story support?

- A. Friendship is fragile and can be destroyed by conflict
- B. Competition sometimes brings out the worst in friends
- C. Friends will always grow apart over time
- D. A strong friendship can survive even the most extreme tests

35. What is the perspective of the short story?

- A. First person
- B. Second Person
- C. Third Person
- D. Genre

