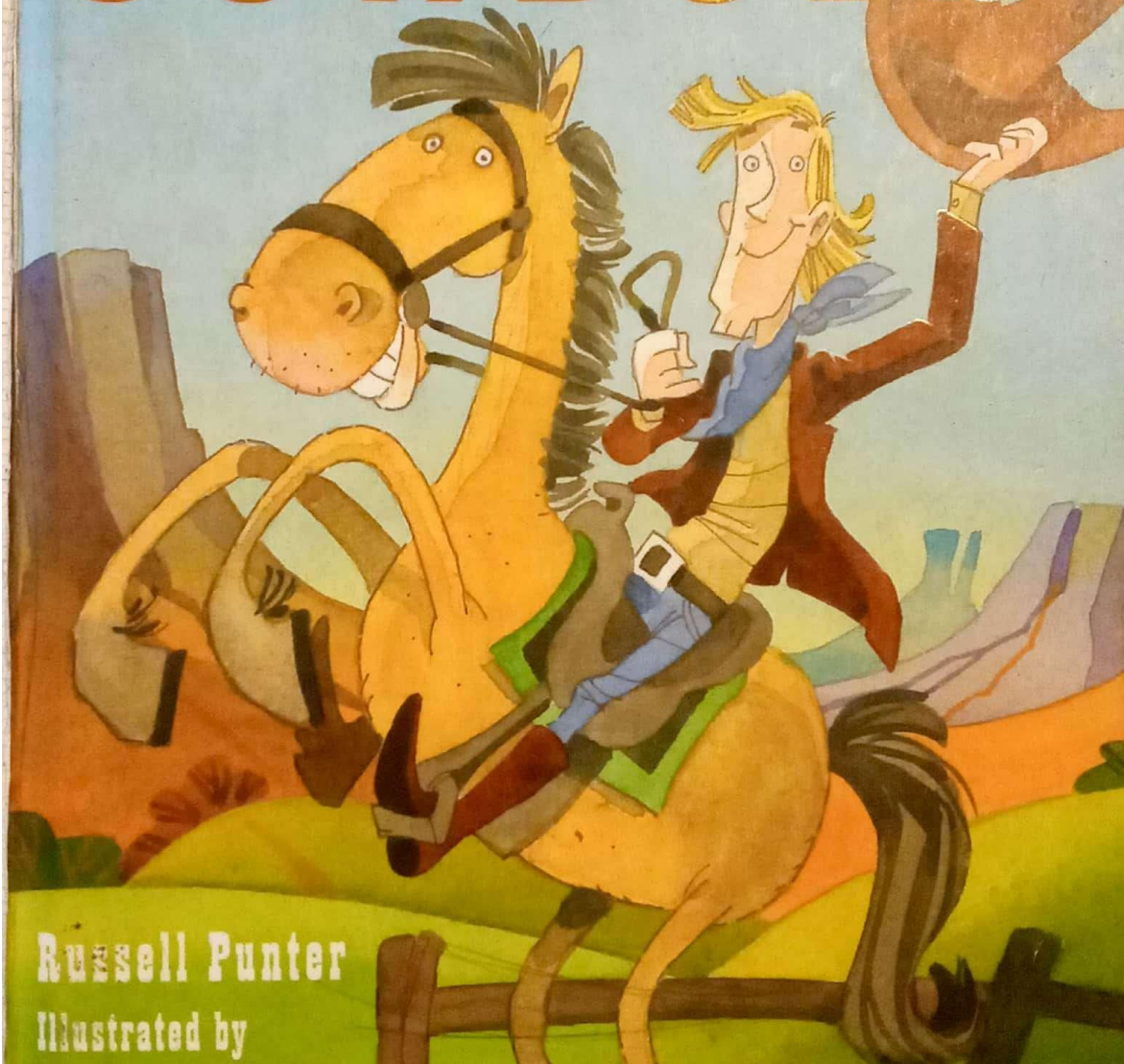


USBORNE YOUNG READING



# STORIES OF COWBOYS



Russell Punter

Illustrated by

# Cowboy words

In this book, you'll find lots of special words used by cowboys. This list tells you what they mean.

bronco - a wild horse



calf - a young cow

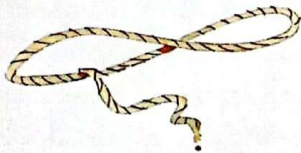
cattle - lots of cows



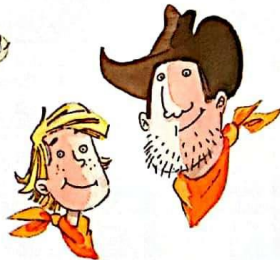
corral - a big pen where cattle are kept

critter - a creature

hogwash - nonsense



lasso - a long rope with a loop at one end



pa - dad

prairie - a big, grassy area of land

ranch - a big farm for cattle



rodeo - a contest for cowboys



roundup - when cattle are gathered together by cowboys



rustler - someone who steals cattle

sheriff - a policeman



spur - a pointed piece of metal, often shaped like a star, on the back of a cowboy's boot



stagecoach - a small carriage pulled by horses



steer - a kind of bull



varmint - a bad person



## Chapter 1

# The rotten rustler



It was spring at the Silver Spur cattle ranch. Johnny Spur was helping with the roundup.

4

Johnny and his pa rode to the green fields. They rounded up the cattle...

Yee ha!

led them down the hillside...



Get along there!

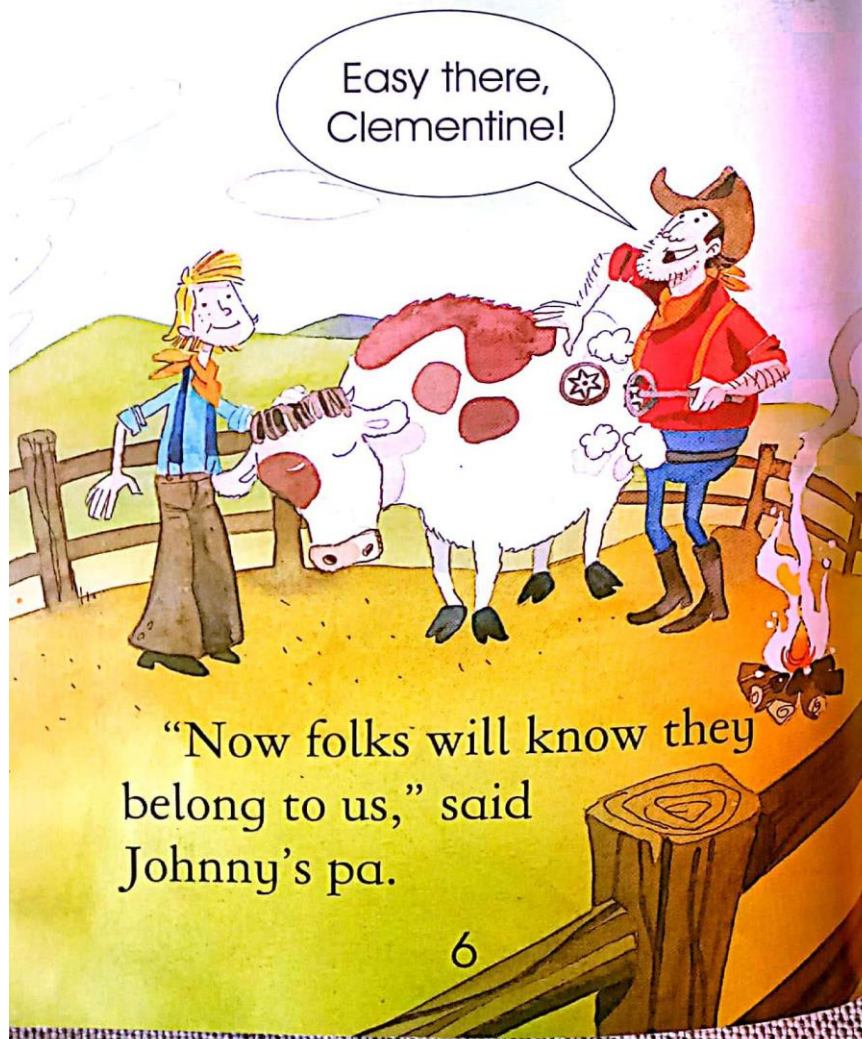
and into a corral.

5



There were eight calves.  
Johnny's pa branded each one  
with a little picture of a spur.

Easy there,  
Clementine!



"Now folks will know they  
belong to us," said  
Johnny's pa.

6

The next morning, Johnny  
went to feed the cattle. He soon  
saw something was wrong.

...five, six,  
seven...



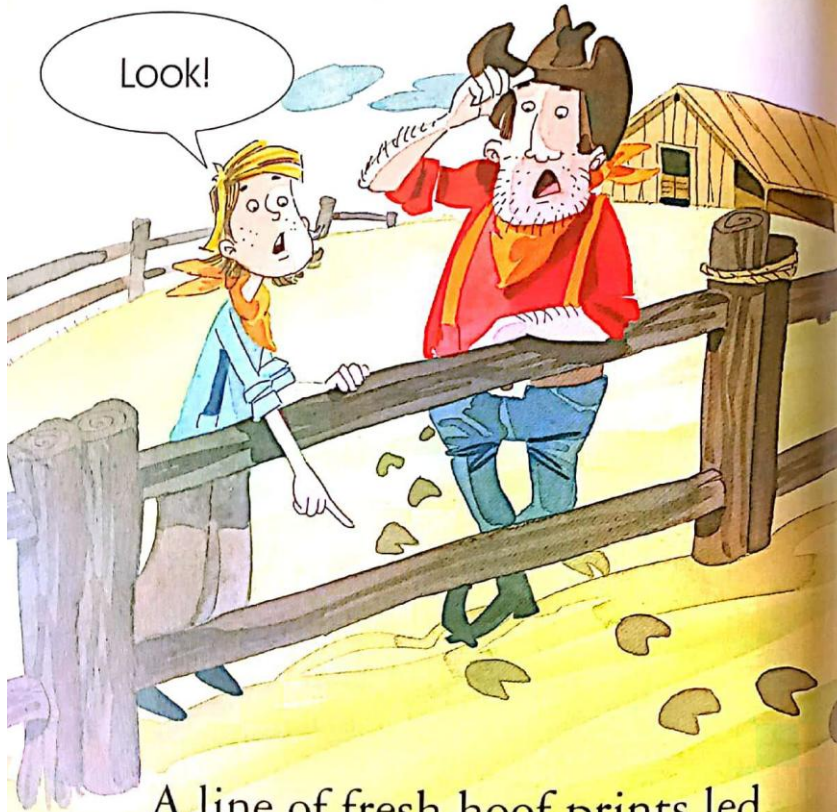
"Quick, Pa!" yelled Johnny.  
"Clementine is missing."

7



"Where the heck is she?"  
asked Mr. Spur.

Look!

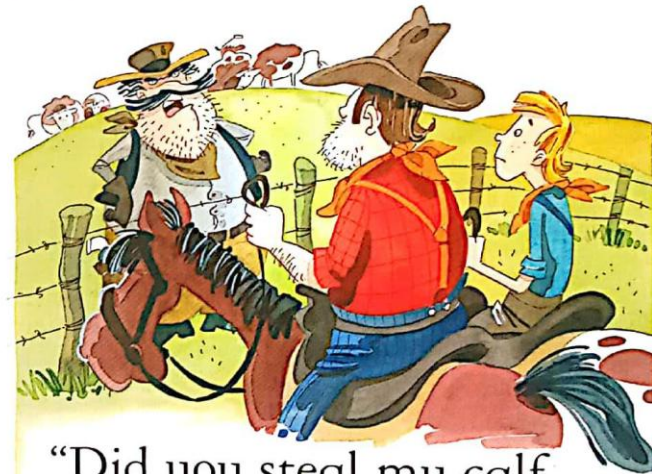


A line of fresh hoof prints led  
out of the corral. Johnny and  
his pa followed the trail...

across the prairie...



to Hank Horseshoe's ranch.



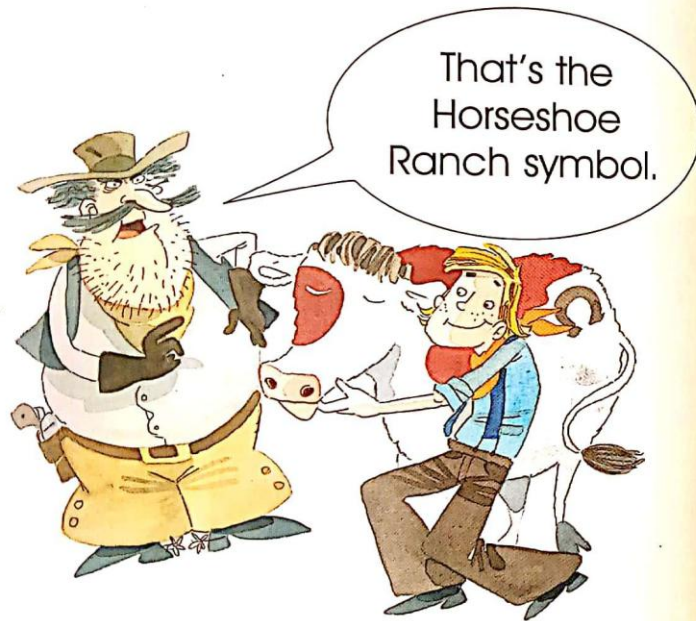
"Did you steal my calf,  
Hank?" shouted Johnny's pa.

"Who, me?" said Hank. "I  
ain't no rustler."



"There's Clementine," cried Johnny, rushing up to a calf.

"She's mine," shouted Hank, pointing to his mark.



"Now get off my land!" roared Hank. "Or I'll set my dogs on you."

Johnny was sure Hank was a thief. That night, he hid by the corral and waited.



It wasn't long before Hank tiptoed up and took a calf. Johnny followed the sneaky rustler back to his ranch.



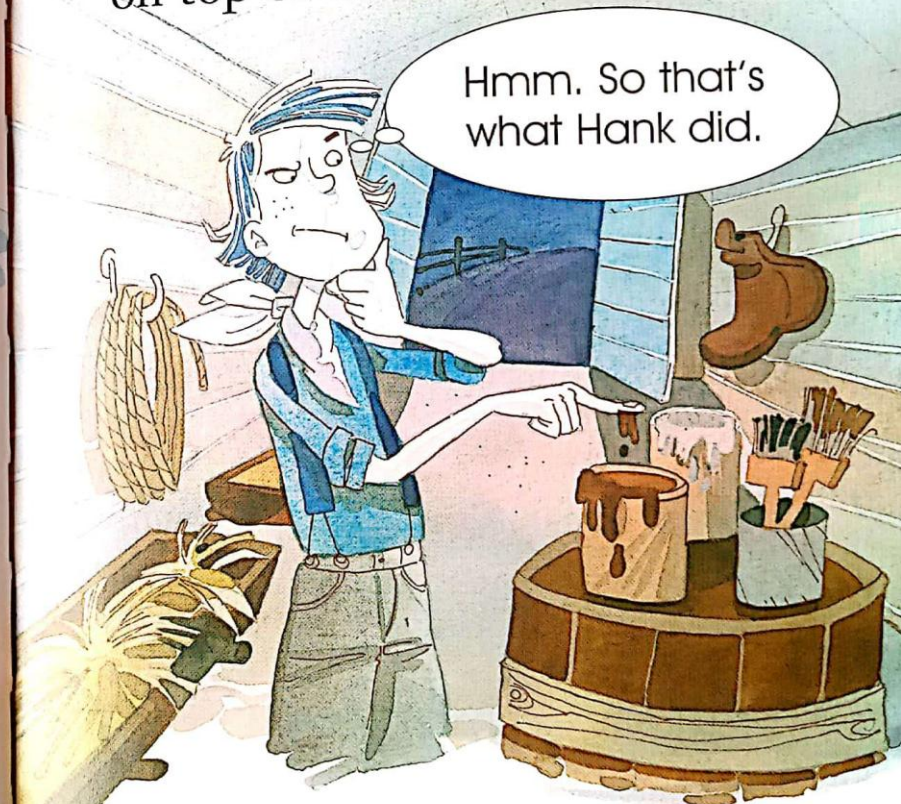
Hank pulled the calf into a barn. Johnny could clearly see the Spur mark on the calf.



Moments later, Hank and the calf came out. But now the calf had the Horseshoe mark.



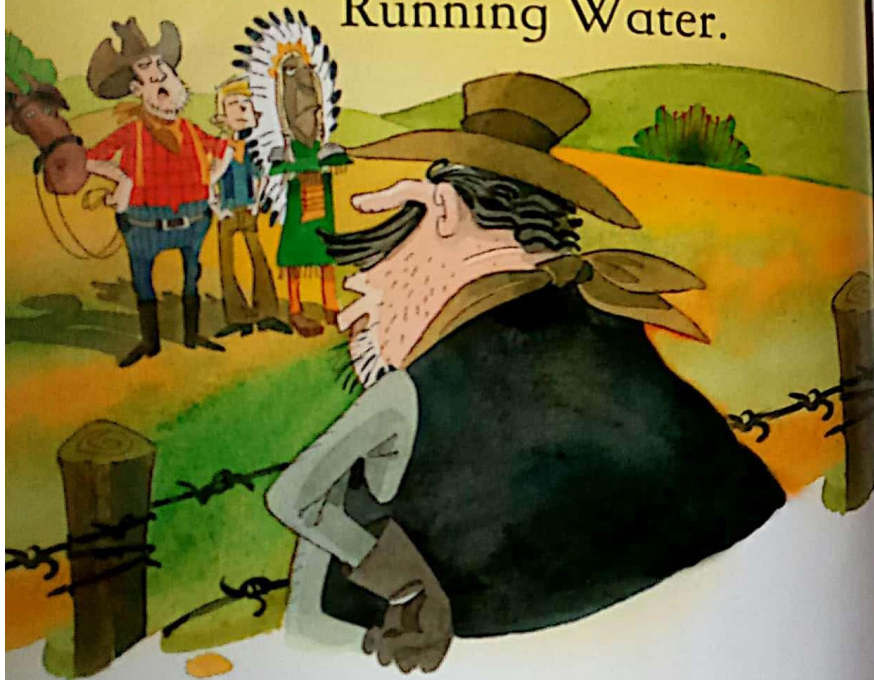
Johnny crept into the barn. He noticed some cans of paint on top of a barrel.



Hank had fooled them! Now Johnny had to prove it.



The next day, Johnny visited Hank's ranch. He took his pa and their friend, Chief Running Water.



"What do you critters want now?" yelled Hank.

"We've come for our cattle," said Johnny firmly.

"Well they ain't here," growled Hank. "So clear out."  
"Not until the chief has done his rain dance," smiled Johnny.



Chief Running Water began to dance. It was a special dance to ask the sky spirits for rain.



"Ha!" snapped Hank. "I don't believe that hogwash."

There was an angry rumble of thunder, and rain pelted down.



The calves in Hank's corral were soaked. The rainwater washed away Hank's mark...

and showed the Spurs' symbol.

"Hank tricked us," explained Johnny. "He painted his mark over ours."



The stolen calves were soon back where they belonged. And the local sheriff put Hank where he belonged too – behind bars.