

STORIES from the **GOLDEN AGE**

Literature Guide for Teachers & Librarians

Based on Common Core ELA Standards for Classrooms 6–9



The Toughest Ranger

**Literature Guide with book & audio drama
includes full comprehensive glossary to build vocabulary**

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ISBN 978-1-61986-220-3 print edition

ISBN 978-1-61986-259-3 digital edition

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ABOUT THE STORIES FROM THE GOLDEN AGE

The library of the Stories from the Golden Age presents the best of L. Ron Hubbard's fiction from the heyday of storytelling, the Golden Age of the pulp magazines of 1930s and 1940s America. In the collection, comprising eighty volumes, readers are treated to a full banquet of 153 stories, a kaleidoscope of tales representing every imaginable genre: science fiction, fantasy, western, mystery, thriller, horror—even romance—action of all kinds and in all places.

For more information, visit: GoldenAgeStories.com

ABOUT L. RON HUBBARD

With 19 *New York Times* bestsellers and more than 280 million copies of his works in circulation, L. Ron Hubbard is among the most acclaimed and widely read authors of our time. As a leading light of American Pulp Fiction through the 1930s and '40s, he is further among the most influential authors of the modern age. Indeed, from Ray Bradbury to Stephen King, there is scarcely a master of imaginative tales who has not paid tribute to L. Ron Hubbard.

ABOUT THE TOUGHEST RANGER

(Originally published in the June 1938 issue of *Western Story Magazine*)

Saddle tramp Petey McGuire has been kicked around so long, he'd run away from his own shadow if he could. But there's one fight he can't run from—the fight against hunger. Petey needs a job quick. But the only way to get one is to act cool and talk tough. And he succeeds all too well—landing in the saddle with the Arizona Rangers...where he learns exactly what it takes to face the meanest outlaw and win the prettiest girl.

Grade Level: 7

Lexile: 750

GRL: Z+

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COMMON CORE ELA STANDARDS SUPPORTED

KEY IDEAS AND DETAILS

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.6.1 Cite textual evidence to support analysis of what the text says explicitly as well as inferences drawn from the text.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.7.1 Cite several pieces of textual evidence to support analysis of what the text says explicitly as well as inferences drawn from the text.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.8.1 Cite the textual evidence that most strongly supports an analysis of what the text says explicitly as well as inferences drawn from the text.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.9-10.1 Cite strong and thorough textual evidence to support analysis of what the text says explicitly as well as inferences drawn from the text.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.6.2 Determine a theme or central idea of a text and how it is conveyed through particular details; provide a summary of the text distinct from personal opinions or judgments.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.7.2 Determine a theme or central idea of a text and analyze its development over the course of the text; provide an objective summary of the text.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.8.2 Determine a theme or central idea of a text and analyze its development over the course of the text, including its relationship to the characters, setting, and plot; provide an objective summary of the text.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.9-10.2 Determine a theme or central idea of a text and analyze in detail its development over the course of the text, including how it emerges and is shaped and refined by specific details; provide an objective summary of the text.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.6.3 Describe how a particular story's or drama's plot unfolds in a series of episodes as well as how the characters respond or change as the plot moves toward a resolution.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.7.3 Analyze how particular elements of a story or drama interact (e.g., how setting shapes the characters or plot).

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.8.3 Analyze how particular lines of dialogue or incidents in a story or drama propel the action, reveal aspects of a character, or provoke a decision.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.9-10.3 Analyze how complex characters (e.g., those with multiple or conflicting motivations) develop over the course of a text, interact with other characters, and advance the plot or develop the theme.

CRAFT AND STRUCTURE

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.6.4 Determine the meaning of words and phrases as they are used in a text, including figurative and connotative meanings; analyze the impact of a specific word choice on meaning and tone

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.7.4 Determine the meaning of words and phrases as they are used in a text, including figurative and connotative meanings; analyze the impact of rhymes and other repetitions of sounds (e.g., alliteration) on a specific verse or stanza of a poem or section of a story or drama.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.8.4 Determine the meaning of words and phrases as they are used in a text, including figurative and connotative meanings; analyze the impact of specific word choices on meaning and tone, including analogies or allusions to other texts.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.9-10.4 Determine the meaning of words and phrases as they are used in the text, including figurative and connotative meanings; analyze the cumulative impact of specific word choices on meaning and tone (e.g., how the language evokes a sense of time and place; how it sets a formal or informal tone) including analogies or allusions to other texts.

INTEGRATION OF KNOWLEDGE AND IDEAS

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.6.7 Compare and contrast the experience of reading a story, drama, or poem to listening to or viewing an audio, video, or live version of the text, including contrasting what they “see” and “hear” when reading the text to what they perceive when they listen or watch.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.7.7 Compare and contrast a written story, drama, or poem to its audio, filmed, staged, or multimedia version, analyzing the effects of techniques unique to each medium (e.g., lighting, sound, color, or camera focus and angles in a film).

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.8.7 Analyze the extent to which a filmed or live production of a story or drama stays faithful to or departs from the text or script, evaluating the choices made by the director or actors.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.9-10.7 Analyze the representation of a subject or a key scene in two different artistic mediums, including what is emphasized or absent in each treatment (e.g., Auden’s “Musée des Beaux Arts” and Breughel’s Landscape with the Fall of Icarus).

MULTIPLE CHOICE ASSESSMENT

Select the correct answer from the multiple choices after each question.

1. SEQUENCE

What belongs in the middle?

- a) Petey McGuire captures Brad Thompson.
- b)
- c) Petey McGuire kills Brad Thompson.

Petey tells Captain Shannon he wants a job as a ranger.

Bette meets Petey for the first time outside Shannon's office.

Bette tells her father that she cannot be broken.

A demon possesses Petey.

2. CAUSE AND EFFECT

Petey McGuire acted like a tough guy when he met Captain Shannon, so

he could impress the women in Crostobal and Grande Piedras.

he could be hired as a ranger, and at the same time, save Pat's life.

he could practice his swagger and grin.

he could stay in Arizona and not go back to Kansas City.

3. CAUSE AND EFFECT

Captain Shannon wanted to get rid of Petey McGuire, so

he could hunt Brad Thompson and kill him by himself.

he could save his reputation, keep his job, and daughter.

he could be the governor of Nevada's right hand man.

he could impress the cattlemen by catching the rustlers singlehandedly.

4. CONTEXT CLUES

At the beginning of the story, Petey McGuire was called a _____.

saddle tramp

buckaroo

coyote-hearted chicken thief

rootin'-tootin' cowboy

MULTIPLE CHOICE ASSESSMENT (Continued)

5. CONTEXT CLUES

The Arizona Rangers are

- a tribe of Indians.
- a group of forest rangers.
- a band of outlaws.
- a group of mounted lawmen.

6. PREDICTION OR INFERENCES

What do you think happens to Petey after Shannon is sworn in as the senator from Arizona?

- Wells Fargo hires him as an agent.
- He marries Bette and they settle down in Grande Piedras.
- He gets a job as a cowpuncher.
- He heads back to Kansas City to train horses.

7. FACTS AND DETAILS

When Petey becomes an Arizona Ranger, the image he projects is

- a man on the run.
- a saddle tramp.
- cocky and confident.
- softhearted and cowardly.

8. FACTS AND DETAILS

What added to Brad Thompson's bitterness as a kid?

- He didn't have any friends.
- He spent time in prison for a crime he didn't commit.
- He was expelled from school for truancy.
- He grew up in an orphanage.

MULTIPLE CHOICE ASSESSMENT (Continued)

9. FACTS AND DETAILS

A white feather is

- a sign of surrender.
- a symbol of cowardice.
- the name of an Indian brave.
- an albino bird.

10. FACTS AND DETAILS

What does Thompson do after he breaks out of jail?

- He rustles cattle in Mexico.
- He forms a gang and robs strong boxes from the Overland Stage.
- He gets a job bartending at 'O Sole Mio Gaming House in Grande Piedras.
- He marries and goes back to New York.

11. FACTS AND DETAILS

What important person does Petey meet at the final shootout with Thompson?

- The President of the United States.
- A Jesuit priest on his way back from Spain.
- The chief of the Texas Rangers.
- Ralph Osborn, the new governor of the Territory of Arizona.

12. FACTS AND DETAILS

At the end of the story, Petey visits Captain Shannon to share the news about

- the deaths that took place at the stagecoach robbery.
- his plan to leave Arizona to go home to Kansas City.
- his promotion and Shannon's new job.
- the plan to build a railroad across Arizona.

FREE RESPONSE ASSESSMENT

Answer the following questions in short sentences.

1. Why has Petey been on the run most of his life?
2. What causes Petey to be so strong that he demands a job from Captain Shannon?
3. What does Bette say to Petey when she meets him for the first time?
4. What happens when Petey meets Thompson at the saloon in Grande Peidras?
5. What does Petey tell Shannon after he captures Brad Thompson?
6. After their conversation, why is Captain Shannon so angry he wants to kill Petey?
7. Why does Bette get so upset and call her father a “granite mountain without a heart”?
8. What surprising event takes place between Petey and Shannon at the end of the story?

CITING TEXTUAL EVIDENCE

1. Why do you think Petey McGuire feels he has a double identity?
 - 1a. What textual evidence from the story supports your answer to question #1?

2. Why do you think Captain Shannon hires McGuire when he really isn't qualified for the job?
 - 2a. What textual evidence from the story supports your answer to question #2?

3. Why do you think Shannon sends Petey to find Thompson in Buell Canyon instead of the rangers?
 - 3a. What textual evidence from the story supports your answer to question #3?

4. What do you think Petey learns from the experience of being a ranger?
 - 4a. What textual evidence from the story supports your answer to question #4?

CHARACTER ANALYSIS

Describe a characteristic of each of the following characters and cite evidence from the text of something that the character says or does that demonstrates that characteristic:

1. Petey McGuire

2. Captain Shannon

3. Brad Thompson

4. Bette Shannon

OBJECTIVE SUMMARY

On a separate piece of paper, write a summary of the story in approximately 150 words. Then write a summary of the story in a single sentence of 10 to 20 words.

THEME OR MAIN IDEA

1. Which of these do you think is the main idea of the story?
 - To be successful, don't dodge life, but meet challenges head on.
 - Tough talking pays off.
 - Life is full of obstacles.
 - Something else? _____
2. Explain some of the ways that the author gets this idea across through the characters, setting and plot of the story.

KEY IDEAS AND DETAILS

Common Core Standards:

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.6.3

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.7.3

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.8.3

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.9-10.3

PLOT ANALYSIS

The turning point of the story is when Petey McGuire encounters a stranger who tells him he won't hire anyone like Petey because he needs a fightin' man. Answer one or more of these questions:

1. How does this event reveal aspects of Petey's character?
2. How does this event help the reader to understand the author's main idea for the story?
3. How does this event move the story towards its resolution?

FIND THE MEANING

For the following section circle the correct answers.

1. *doleful* means

- blissful
- upbeat
- sorrowful
- handout

2. *brazen* means

- shameless
- timid
- lazy
- lucky

3. *volition* means

- required
- choice
- tradition
- volley

4. *surlily* means

- good-natured
- silly in appearance
- ill-tempered
- certainly

5. *insolent* means

- disrespectful
- insolvent
- coward
- overly nice

6. *gauntlet* means

- military jacket
- protective glove
- wool scarf
- fighting sword

7. *braggart* means

- bonanza
- deer
- boastful
- bully

8. *ruminare* means

- to neglect
- to ponder
- to summit
- drink alcohol

9. *languorous* means

- ambitious
- language
- glamorous
- lacking energy

10. *saunter* means

- stroll
- sauna
- gallop
- jog

COMPLETE THE SENTENCES

1. The mood of the attendees at the funeral was very _____.
brazen surlily doleful languorous
2. The thief was very _____ when he walked out of the store with a television under his arm.
doleful braggart languorous brazen
3. Everyone who decides to go into the military should do so on their own _____.
insolent gauntlet volition surlily
4. The wrestler came out of his corner of the ring very _____.
doleful surlily saunter languorous
5. The principal expelled the student after many _____ outbursts in the cafeteria.
saunter doleful insolent volition
6. The construction worker lost a _____ at the work site.
volition ruminate brazen gauntlet
7. The _____ had no friends because he was so cocky.
insolent saunter gauntlet braggart
8. Facing a difficult equation, the mathematician decided to _____ on the answer.
brazen braggart volition ruminate
9. Her doctor prescribed vitamins to handle the _____ symptoms.
languorous brazen insolent surlily
10. Rather than jog, the track team decided to _____ through the park.
ruminate saunter gauntlet braggart

COMPARING TEXT TO PERFORMANCE

Listen to the audiobook version of the scene in which Petey stops the robbery of the Overland Stage by Thompson and his gang. Write a short essay that compares and contrasts this experience to your experience of reading the story. What did you notice about the production techniques used to produce the audio version? Did the actors portray the characters in ways that matched your own impressions of them that were formed when you read the book?

MULTIPLE CHOICE ASSESSMENT: ANSWERS

1. SEQUENCE

- Bette tells her father that she cannot be broken.

2. CAUSE AND EFFECT

- he would be hired as a ranger, and at the same time, save Pat's life.

3. CAUSE AND EFFECT

- he could save his reputation, keep his job, and daughter.

4. CONTEXT CLUES

- saddle tramp

5. CONTEXT CLUES

- a group of mounted lawmen.

6. PREDICTION OR INFERENCE

- He marries Bette and they settle down in Grande Piedras.

7. PREDICTION AND INFERENCE

- cocky and confident.

8. FACTS AND DETAILS

- He spent time in prison for a crime he didn't commit.

9. FACTS AND DETAILS

- a symbol of cowardice.

10. FACTS AND DETAILS

- He forms a gang and robs strongboxes from the Overland Stage.

11. FACTS AND DETAILS

- Ralph Osborn, the new governor of the Territory of Arizona.

12. FACTS AND DETAILS

- his promotion and Shannon's new job.

FREE RESPONSE ASSESSMENT: ANSWERS

1. Why has Petey been on the run most of his life?

Answer: Because of a painful family life, he has been on the run, going place to place.

On the run from a father who had been something less than kind. On the run from a beating he still winced to remember. And now at twenty-four he was still on the run. Job to job, beating to beating. (Page 6)

2. What causes Petey to be so strong that he demands a job from Captain Shannon?

Answer: Petey realizes he is going to lose his horse, Pat, if he doesn't do something brazen to get a job with the Arizona Rangers. So he puts on an act, pretending he is the toughest gunslinger around so he will get hired by Captain Shannon. (See pages 9-11)

3. What does Bette say to Petey when she meets him for the first time?

Answer: She berates Petey for the condition his horse is in.

And she did something she had never done before in her life. She flashed, "You ought to be ashamed of yourself, killing a horse that way!" (Page 12)

4. What happens when Petey meets Thompson at the saloon in Grande Piedras?

Answer: Petey tells everyone in the saloon that he has come to get Thompson and take him back dead or alive. Thompson shows up in answer to the challenge and in the subsequent shoot out, Thompson is wounded and Petey takes him to jail. (Pages 23-24)

5. What does Petey tell Shannon after he captures Brad Thompson?

Answer: Petey tells him that he is out for Captain Shannon's job.

"You had me on a spot, you thought. Well, I come back. I come back and before this year is done.... Yeah. Yeah, you expect to be made the head of all the Rangers. But you won't never be. I'm out for that job, Shannon. I'll get that job because compared to me you're about as lethal as a mesquite bush." (Pages 27-28)

6. After their conversation, why is Captain Shannon so angry he wants to kill Petey?

Answer: Shannon realizes Petey is a threat to not only his job and also to losing Bette.

"So you're out for my job," mouthed Shannon, never making a sound.

He saw a sudden vision of Bette, saw her in Petey McGuire's arms, looking worshipfully up at him....

He saw Bette left and lost and alone and he saw himself done and dead and unable to help her....

He knew with a blinding flash of light that he was done, did Shannon. He was done as long as McGuire lived.

Yes. All he had to do was wait. Petey McGuire had gotten Thompson. But there were harder, more murderous jobs. Many jobs wherein it would be impossible for one man, alone, to do his work and come back alive.

(Pages 28-29)

7. Why does Bette get so upset and call her father a “granite mountain without a heart”?

Answer: Bette knows her father hates Petey and is afraid of him and that is why he sent Petey out on a job that will get him killed.

“I know what you did and I know why you did it! You ordered him out, *alone*. You ordered him out on a job when you should have sent your entire troop! You sent him to die because you hate him, because you're afraid of him!”

“You're a granite mountain without any heart. You're a killer so cold that you would send a kid out to die just because you were afraid of what that boy might do.” (Pages 40-41)

8. What surprising event takes place between Petey and Shannon at the end of the story?

Answer: Petey tells Shannon that he is through as the captain of the Arizona Rangers, but at the same time surprises Shannon by telling him he is being promoted to Washington, DC to be the next senator from Arizona.

“No,” said Petey, standing up with an expansive grin, “you'll never be the chief of the Rangers and you're through here at this job because...”

“Because,” said Petey with an even wider grin, “we are sending you as the next senator from Arizona to the United States capital at Washington. And, Pop, let me be the first to congratulate you.” (Page 54)

CITING TEXTUAL EVIDENCE: ANSWERS

1. Why do you think Petey McGuire feels he has a double identity?

1a. What textual evidence from the story supports your answer to question #1?

Answer: Petey recognizes that a change has come over him, he is scared but at the same time he is without fear. What is making him act like this is the threat of losing his horse and so out of necessity, he acts like a tough guy.

Petey mulled the matter as he swabbed down Pat. Here he was, feeling a fairly normal Petey McGuire, but if anybody stepped up to him he knew he would give him a brisk snap. He was McGuire but he wasn't McGuire and never before in his life had he suspected his own double identity. He had been most busy dodging fights and now he had learned that if he kept up his front the fights would begin to dodge him.

He had only reached a solution to his past misery, but the force of it and the exhilaration of having people think he was tough evaded his personal discovery. He only knew that a demon had come along and that the demon had leaped into Petey McGuire and that he was sharing his house with a hellion. (Pages 15-16)

2. Why do you think Captain Shannon hires McGuire when he really isn't qualified for the job?

2a. What textual evidence from the story supports your answer to question #2?

Answer: Shannon sees Petey as brassy, but a fake. It amuses him. He takes him on because he figures when the fighting starts, this kid will run.

Shannon was taken not a little aback. He knew his own reputation and now that he was getting old he was guarding it. He had reasons. He had made enemies in his day. And this tough-talking kid had more brass than anybody Shannon had seen for many a year. Shannon's reputation was such as to demand respect. And here was a young whippersnapper ...

Shannon scratched his jaw and squinted up a cold, gray eye. He was amused. But now was not the time. Oh, no. He could read this kid like a book. Youngster putting on a front and nothing more and when the guns began to go... (Page 11)

3. Why do you think Shannon sends Petey to find Thompson in Buell Canyon instead of the rangers?

3a. What textual evidence from the story supports your answer to question #3?

Answer: Shannon's youth has slipped away and he sees Petey as a threat to what he holds dear: his reputation, his job and his daughter. He knows, however, he can get rid of Petey by sending him out on a job that will most likely get him killed.

"I understand now, Shannon. I understand. You're scared, that's all. Scared. You think I'll get your job. You think I'll steal your girl. You think I'm rotten all the way through but instead of coming out with it like a man you're using your job to kill me."

"You've been waiting for this," said Petey. "Sure. Sure. You think I can kill Thompson but you know I'll never get back alive." (Page 36)

4. What do you think Petey learns from the experience of being a ranger?

4a. What textual evidence from the story supports your answer to question #4?

Answer: The old Petey and the new Petey have at last blended into one personality. He exhibits confidence without the cockiness—he has matured.

Although Petey's arm was in a sling and although he might have swaggered as he dismounted from Pat in the compound at Cristobal, he did not.

He walked with confidence, yes. But not with swagger. He exuded confidence, yes, but not cockiness.

There was something very real and certain about every move he made. Something frank about the way he smiled.

The old Petey and the new Petey had met at last on common ground.
(Page 53)

THEME OR MAIN IDEA

Answer: To be successful, don't dodge life, but meet challenges head on.

FIND THE MEANING: ANSWERS

1. *doleful* means sorrowful
2. *brazen* means shameless
3. *volition* means choice
4. *surlily* means ill-tempered
5. *insolent* means disrespectful
6. *gauntlet* means protective glove
7. *braggart* means boastful
8. *ruminates* means to ponder
9. *languorous* means lacking energy
10. *saunter* means stroll

COMPLETE THE SENTENCES: ANSWERS

1. The mood of the attendees at the funeral was very *doleful*.
2. The thief was very *brazen* when he walked out of the store with a television under his arm.
3. Everyone who decides to go into the military should do so on their own *volition*.
4. The wrestler came out of his corner of the ring very *surlily*.
5. The principal expelled the student after many *insolent* outbursts in the cafeteria.
6. The construction worker lost a *gauntlet* at the work site.
7. The *braggart* had no friends because he was so cocky.
8. Facing a difficult equation, the mathematician decided to *ruminates* on the answer.
9. Her doctor prescribed vitamins to handle the *languorous* symptoms.
10. Rather than jog, the track team decided to *saunter* through the park.

EXPANDED BOOK GLOSSARY

agates: (noun) gemstones with colorful concentric ringlike bands that sometimes look like eyes. [They were in buckskin and leather and their eyes were like agates with St. Vitus. –*The Toughest Ranger*]

alkali: (adjective) a powdery white mineral that salts the ground in many low places in the West. [No more livin' off of lizards, no more drinkin' *alkali* water, no more sweatin' and broilin' for you and me. –*Silent Pard*s]

Arizona Rangers: (noun) a group of mounted lawmen organized in 1901 to protect the Arizona Territory from outlaws and rustlers so that the Territory could apply for statehood. They were picked from officers, military men, ranchers and cowboys. By 1909, the Arizona Rangers had largely accomplished their goals and were disbanded by the Territorial Governor. [There was a sign about the gate: "THE ARIZONA RANGERS." –*The Toughest Ranger*]

austere: (adjective) harsh or severe in manner. [Suddenly she was very *austere*. "You like yourself, don't you?" –*The Toughest Ranger*]

'baccy: (noun) tobacco. ["I'll have a pipe big as my fist and ten pounds of 'baccy...." –*Silent Pard*s]

batwings: (noun) long chaps (leather leggings the cowboy wears to protect his legs) with big flaps of leather. They usually fasten with rings and snaps. [He had dragged on his pay for new jeans, brass-studded *batwings*, stiff, flat-brimmed Stetson and shiny boots. –*The Toughest Ranger*]

belligerent: (adjective) warlike; hostile. [He felt pretty small on Pat's back but he looked most competent and *belligerent*. –*The Toughest Ranger*]

black: (noun) black sand; a heavy, glossy, partly magnetic mixture of fine sands. Black sand is an indicator of the presence of gold or other precious metals. [The banks were *black*. –*Silent Pard*s]

blue: (noun) a poker chip having a high value. ["We play a pretty steep game here. *Blue's* a quarter." –*The Ranch That No One Would Buy*]

bonanza: (noun) in mining, a rich mine or vein of silver or gold; anything that is a mine of wealth or yields a large income. [It required more than a month for Cherokee to recover from the loss of his *bonanza* and the shattering of his dreams. –*Silent Pard*s]

boot: (noun) saddle boot; a close-fitting covering or case for a gun or other weapon that straps to a saddle. [Petey gave Pat a grin and a love-tap on the nose and then moved back to slide the Winchester into its *boot*. –*The Toughest Ranger*]

brass: (adjective) assurance without regard to other's opinions; boldness [And this tough-talking kid had more *brass* than anybody Shannon had seen for many a year. –*The Toughest Ranger*]

brazen: (adjective) shameless; overly bold. [It was an amazingly *brazen* idea. –*The Toughest Ranger*]

buffaloed: (adjective) deceived; caused to accept what is false, especially by trickery or misrepresentation. [You got the place *buffaloed*, but they don't know the truth that you couldn't hit the broad side of a barn door. –*The Toughest Ranger*]

butterball: (adjective) a chubby person. [And then the door hinges creaked and out stepped a little *butterball* of a man in a gray suit and high-heeled boots. –*The Toughest Ranger*]

caballeros: (noun) (Spanish) gentlemen. [The "'O Sole Mio Gaming House for Caballeros"—according to the paint-blistered sign.... –*The Toughest Ranger*]

Calexico: (noun) a city in Southern California on the US-Mexican border. Founded in 1899, it is a coined name combining the words *California* and *Mexico*. ["Lefty will be in *Calexico* days before you get there, in case you want to get hopeful." –*Silent Pard*s]

Californio: (noun) of a Californian, or one of the original Spanish colonists of California or their descendants. [Nor were his tailored shirt and chaps *Californio*. –*The Ranch That No One Would Buy*]

chaparral: (noun) small, shrubby trees native to the dry soils of North America, such as scrub oak, mesquite, vines and any sort of shrubbery all tangled together. They can be found in patches or covering a plain. [Horsemen, still mounted, were motionless in the *chaparral*. –*Silent Pard*s]

chaps: (noun) strong leather breeches (pants) or overalls usually worn by cowboys. [Nor were his tailored shirt and *chaps* *Californio*. –*The Ranch That No One Would Buy*]

carbolic acid: (noun) an acid derived from coal tar and other sources. ["Gimme a shot of *carbolic acid* and don't go dilutin' it none with strychnine!" –*The Toughest Ranger*]

coat of mail: (noun) chain mail; flexible armor made of joined metal links. [But the role which had dropped over him like a *coat of mail* would not desert him now. –*The Toughest Ranger*]

cockleburs: (noun) any of several weeds having small seedlike fruits enclosed within a prickly bur that clings readily to clothing or animal fur. [The little sorrel's flanks were white with dried lather, his coat was roughened and spotted with *cockleburs*. –*The Toughest Ranger*]

Colt: (noun) a single-action, six-shot cylinder revolver, most commonly available in .45- or .44-caliber versions. It was first manufactured in 1873 for the Army by the Colt Firearms Company, the armory founded by American inventor Samuel Colt (1814–1862) who revolutionized the firearms industry with the invention of the revolver. [He had drawn a new *Colt* from the arsenal and he had polished it so much that the sun hitting it blinded a man. –*The Toughest Ranger*]

concentration: (noun) the amount of metal deposit, such as precious metals, present in

a certain amount of soil. [The sand had always yielded more and more in *concentration* until now, spotting this lode as the source, Cherokee stood with an easy old age in his palm. –*Silent Pard*s]

concha: (noun) a disk, traditionally of hammered silver and resembling a shell or flower, used as a decoration piece on belts, harnesses, etc. [She was confused and blushed a little, nervously twisting at the chin thong’s *concha*. –*The Toughest Ranger*]

contempt: (noun) the act or feeling of despising something that is bad or worthless; scorn. [Suddenly Petey got to his feet and the grin on his face was grisly in its *contempt*. –*The Toughest Ranger*]

cow town: (noun) a town at the end of the trail from which cattle were shipped; later applied to towns that depended upon the cowman and his trade for their existence. [He looked at the signs of the shabby *cow town*. –*The Ranch That No One Would Buy*]

coyote: (adjective) used for a man who has the sneaking characteristics of a coyote. [“I come to this town,” said Petey to the Mexican, “to generally work upon a gent named Brad Thompson, a penny-ante tinhorn and a *coyote*-hearted chicken thief. –*The Toughest Ranger*]

currycomb: (noun) a comb with metallic or serrated teeth used to comb a horse. [Petey unnecessarily began to make a checkerboard pattern on Pat’s rump with his *currycomb*. –*The Toughest Ranger*]

’dobe: (adjective) short for *adobe*; a building constructed with sun-dried bricks made from clay. [The Arizona sun beat pitilessly down upon the dun plain and warped and baked the tired trees which drooped about the *’dobe* ranch house. –*The Toughest Ranger*]

doleful: (adjective) full of grief; sorrowful; expressing or causing others to feel sadness. [It was a *doleful* word, a substitute for a woman’s tears. –*The Toughest Ranger*]

double eagle: (noun) a gold coin of the US with a denomination of twenty dollars, produced from 1850 to 1933. Prior to 1850, eagles with a denomination of ten dollars were the largest denomination of US coin, and since the twenty-dollar gold piece had twice the value of the eagle, it was designated a “double eagle.” [“I... I guess that’s all right,” said Delaney producing a *double eagle*. –*The Ranch That No One Would Buy*]

down in the mouth: (adjective) dejected; depressed; disheartened. [There was a nicety about such things and Cherokee did not look too *down in the mouth*. –*Silent Pard*s]

dragged: (noun) drawn; taken or obtained (money, salary) from a source of supply. [He had *dragged* on his pay for new jeans, brass-studded batwings, stiff, flat-brimmed Stetson and shiny boots. –*The Toughest Ranger*]

dun: (adjective) a dull brown color. [The Arizona sun beat pitilessly down upon the dun plain and warped and baked the tired trees which drooped about the *’dobe* ranch house. –*The Toughest Ranger*]

elixir: (noun) a medicine or magic potion. [Indeed, the feel of the soft and glowing metal acted like a magic *elixir* upon him. –*Silent Pard*s]

g’wan: go on. [*G’wan*, I ain’t in no mood for telling funny stories. –*The Toughest Ranger*]

faro: (noun) a gambling game played with cards and popular in the American West of the nineteenth century. In *faro*, the players bet on the order in which the cards will be turned over by the dealer. The cards were kept in a dealing box to keep track of the play. [Two comparative newcomers to *Calexico*—namely *Lefty* and *Barlow*—were disagreeing with the *faro* dealer in no uncertain terms. –*Silent Pard*s]

filler: (noun) fill; in a card game, drawing the last card needed to make a five-card hand, such as a straight, flush or full house. [Smoke had his *filler*. –*The Ranch That No One Would Buy*]

flanks: (noun) the side of an animal (or human) between the ribs and hip. [The little sorrel’s *flanks* were white with dried lather, his coat was roughened and spotted with cockleburs. –*The Toughest Ranger*]

forty-one or **.41:** (noun) Derringer .41-caliber short pistol. Named for the US gunsmith Henry Deringer (1786–1868), who designed it. [And the little butterball of a man laid about him with a blunt *.41*. –*The Toughest Ranger*]

Franciscan: (noun) a member of a religious order founded by St. Francis in 1209. The Franciscans were dedicated to the virtues of humility and poverty. [The Jesuits had been recalled to Spain and the *Franciscans* had thought the town impossible to save. –*The Toughest Ranger*]

Frisco: (noun) San Francisco. [“I’m itchin’ to start spendin’ and it’s *Frisco* this trip.” –*Silent Pard*s]

front: (noun) assurance, overconfidence or boldness. [He had been most busy dodging fights and now he had learned that if he kept up his *front* the fights would begin to dodge him. –*The Toughest Ranger*]

gauntlet: (noun) a glove that is made of a strong enough material that it protects the hand from injury. [The new *Petey* insolently surveyed the room and pushed back his flat-brimmed hat and took off his right *gauntlet* and flexed his right hand. –*The Toughest Ranger*]

grubstake: (noun) supplies or funds furnished a mining prospector on promise of a share in his discoveries. [If I don’t get it now I’ll never be able to wangle another *grubstake*. –*Silent Pard*s]

guffaw: (noun) a loud burst of laughter. [“Stardust!” exploded *Lassiter* with a *guffaw*. –*The Ranch That No One Would Buy*]

haggard: (adjective) having the expression of one wasted by want or suffering; hollow eyed. [His young face was *haggard* and coated with a pasty mixture of dust and sweat. –*The Toughest Ranger*]

hamstrung: (verb) said of a horse that has had its hamstring, the large tendon above the back of the hock, severed thereby rendering it unable to control its legs. [“The bronc was *hamstrung* hours ago,” said Lush. –*The Ranch That No One Would Buy*]

Henry: (noun) the first rifle to use a cartridge with a metallic casing rather than the undependable, self-contained powder, ball and primer of previous rifles. It was named after B. Tyler Henry, who designed the rifle and the cartridge. [He grabbed for his *Henry* rifle. –*The Toughest Ranger*]

holdout: (noun) playing cards that are hidden in a gambling game for the purpose of cheating. [The new Petey not only owned the place but the bartender’s soul, the gambler’s *holdout*, the church in the square, the entire pueblo.... –*The Toughest Ranger*]

hole card: (noun) the card dealt face down in the first round of a deal in stud poker. [Quietly the kid turned over his own *hole card*. –*The Ranch That No One Would Buy*]

hoss: (noun) horse. [“How come you thunk up a *hoss* name like that?” –*The Ranch That No One Would Buy*]

impudent: (adjective) bold with contempt or disregard, very forward without modesty. [He dropped Pat’s reins and stalked into the office with a careless, *impudent* swagger. –*The Toughest Ranger*]

inflection: (noun) a change or accent in the voice. [“Yeah,” said Petey McGuire with bitter *inflection*. –*The Toughest Ranger*]

iron: (noun) a handgun, especially a revolver. [I invited the whole damned town to a war and this Thompson was the only one that’d drag his *iron*. –*The Toughest Ranger*]

jeered: (verb) saying something sarcastic or taunting to make less of another. [The punchers who had *jeered* at him for silky blond hair and soft blue eyes. –*The Toughest Ranger*]

Jehovah: (noun) a scripture (biblical) name for God. [All right, Mr. *Jehovah* McGuire, I got news two hours ago that Brad Thompson is in Grande Piedras. –*The Toughest Ranger*]

Jesuits: (noun) Catholic order of clergy called The Society of Jesus. Founded by Ignatius Loyola in 1534, it was committed to education, theological scholarship and missionary work. [There was an old *Jesuit* church and a plaza around it and around the plaza squatted a long string of gambling houses.... –*The Toughest Ranger*]

jewelry rock: (noun) gold-bearing vein quartz. [The bared vein of *jewelry rock* was shot through with captured sunlight and the crumbling quartz was too feeble and old to retain its riches. –*Silent Pard*s]

jingle bob: (verb) make sounds from the little pear-shaped pendants hanging loosely from the end of a spur (small spiked wheel attached to the heel of a rider’s boot). [He got up, blew smoke through the gloom, and then *jingle bobbed* carelessly to the door. –*The Toughest Ranger*]

languorous: (adjective) causing languor, a feeling of total exhaustion of strength; weariness. [And Brad Thompson seemed suddenly *languorous*. –*The Toughest Ranger*]

leagues: (noun) a unit of distance, estimated at roughly three miles. [Wasn't he always slogging over *leagues* of the West, from starvation to starvation interspersed with jobs he never kept? –*The Toughest Ranger*]

light out or **lit out:** (verb) to leave quickly; depart hurriedly. ["Maybe he'll *light out* like Bab Thompson did," said Consadine. –*The Ranch That No One Would Buy*]

lily-livered: (adjective) lacking courage; cowardly. Originating from the whiteness of the lily flower and from the former belief that anger depended on the body producing large quantities of yellow bile, thus a white liver meant a lack of courage. ["He's a *lily-livered* kid." –*The Ranch That No One Would Buy*]

lit: landed. [As soon as he *lit*, stunned, he struggled up and again started the charge. –*Silent Pard*s]

livery stable: (noun) a stable that accommodates and looks after horses for their owners. [When he got out in the street he quickened his stride, approaching the *livery stable*. –*The Ranch That No One Would Buy*]

lock: (noun) the mechanism by which the charge or cartridge of a firearm is exploded. [To him gunfire meant rabbit hunting in the days before the *lock* on Cherokee's gun had been broken. –*Silent Pard*s]

lode: (noun) a deposit of ore that fills a fissure in a rock, or a vein of ore deposited between layers of rock. [Once more Cherokee sank his sample pick into the *lode*, and dust and quartz and metal cascaded into his work-hardened old hand. –*Silent Pard*s]

meers: (noun) meerschaum pipe; a smoking pipe made from meerschaum, a white mineral deposit. ["An' I'll have red carpet slippers and a meer—a *meers* ... I'll have a pipe big as my fist and ten pounds of 'baccy...." –*Silent Pard*s]

mesquite bush: (noun) any of several small spiny trees or shrubs native to the southwestern US and Mexico, and used for forage for cattle amongst other things. ["I'll get that job because compared to me you're about as lethal as a *mesquite bush*." –*The Toughest Ranger*]

molten: (adjective) something made by melting and casting the metal or substance of which the thing is formed. Used figuratively. [Mile after mile, mile after mile, and above, the scorching sun hammered *molten* arrows into Petey's back.... –*The Toughest Ranger*]

mulled: (verb) To work (think) over a thought or problem. [Petey *mulled* the matter as he swabbed down Pat. –*The Toughest Ranger*]

N'Orleans: (noun) New Orleans [From Kansas City to *N'Orleans*, what I say goes. –*The Toughest Ranger*]

“O Sole Mio”: (noun) a universally famous song written in 1898. Because the song is so well known, many hotels and restaurants have been named after it. In Italian, it translates literally to “I have my sun.” [The “O Sole Mio Gaming House for Caballeros”—according to the paint-blistered sign—was the source of the whirring wheel. —*The Toughest Ranger*]

Overland: (noun) Overland Stage; stagecoach line in the mid-nineteenth century that transported mail and passengers. [And from May until mid-July, the reign of Brad Thompson went on in full swing and Shannon lost count of dead men found in burned ranches and strongboxes lost from the *Overland Stage*. —*The Toughest Ranger*]

owl-hoot: (adjective) outlaw. [The boy was a braggart, on the *owl-hoot* trail. —*The Toughest Ranger*]

Peacemaker: (noun) nickname for the single-action (that is, cocked by hand for each shot), six-shot Army model revolver first produced in 1873 by the Colt Firearms Company, the armory founded by Samuel Colt (1814–1862). [About his waist hung suspended from scraped leather an old *Peacemaker*. —*The Toughest Ranger*]

pearl: (noun) a white speck of filmy substance, resembling a pearl. [The first *pearl* of dawn was in the sky, graying the dirty window of the back room. —*The Ranch That No One Would Buy*]

penny-ante: (adjective) small-time. [“I come to this town,” said Petey to the Mexican, “to generally work upon a gent named Brad Thompson, a *penny-ante* tinhorn and a coyote-hearted chicken thief.” —*The Toughest Ranger*]

percentage: (noun) benefit, profit or advantage. [“There ain’t no *percentage* in killin’ kids, Smoke.” —*The Ranch That No One Would Buy*]

pinwheeled: (verb) revolving rapidly in a circular motion. [He took out his gun, *pinwheeled* it and tossed it up. —*The Toughest Ranger*]

poke: (noun) a small sack or bag, usually a crude leather pouch, in which a miner carried his gold dust and nuggets. [He had a few of the rarer specimens in a leather *poke* inside his shirt but most of his wealth was packed on Joe because of its extreme weight. —*Silent Pards*]

pueblo: (noun) a community building erected by certain Indian tribes of Arizona and New Mexico. [But when he looked up he was on the outskirts of a small *pueblo*. —*The Toughest Ranger*]

pulling leather: (verb) grabbing onto the saddle while riding a bucking horse. It shows a lack of skill or courage, or both. [Rolling westward, the practice of many years had made him lightning with a gun and able to ride a saddled thunderbolt without *pulling leather*. —*The Toughest Ranger*]

punch (cows): (verb) to take care of cows; to drive cows; to be a cowpuncher, a hired hand who tends cattle. [I can *punch* cows. —*The Toughest Ranger*]

puncher: (noun) a hired hand who tends cattle and performs other duties on horseback. [The *punchers* who had jeered at him for silky blond hair and soft blue eyes. –*The Toughest Ranger*]

quartz: (noun) a common, hard mineral, often with brilliant crystals. It is generally found in large masses or veins, and mined for its gold content. [The bared vein of jewelry rock was shot through with captured sunlight and the crumbling *quartz* was too feeble and old to retain its riches. –*Silent Pard*s]

quirt: (noun) a riding whip with a short handle and a braided leather lash. [With a flick of his *quirt* the ranch owner sent his mount forward and the abruptness of his departure was an insult. –*The Toughest Ranger*]

rapier: (noun) a small sword, especially of the eighteenth century, having a narrow blade and used for thrusting. [Sleeps with a pistol in one hand and a *rapier* in the other. –*The Ranch That No One Would Buy*]

rattler: (noun) rattlesnake; poisonous snake. [I'm so tough I'd give a *rattler* nightmares. –*The Toughest Ranger*]

riata: (noun) a long noosed rope used to catch animals. [Finally, in disgust, Barlow tramped over to the packs and got a length of rawhide *riata*. –*Silent Pard*s]

riffles: (noun) in mining, the strips of metal or wooden slats fixed to the bottom of a rocker box or sluice (a long sloping trough into which water is directed), that run perpendicular to the flow of water. The weight of the gold causes it to sink, where it is captured by these riffles. [He released the handle and fingered the *riffles* hopelessly. –*Silent Pard*s]

rocker box: (noun) a rectangular wooden box set on rockers. The rocking motion causes the mixture of dirt and water to flow through the box, with gold-bearing particles trapped by riffles on the bottom. [A *rocker box* was what he needed but he had nothing with which to build one. –*Silent Pard*s]

rootity-tootiness: (adjective) from *rootin'-tootin'*; noisiest, most rambunctious. ["I hear you was once the roughest, toughest, *rootity-tootiness* sky-hooter in Arizona." –*The Toughest Ranger*]

run-over: (adjective) of boots, where the heel is so unevenly worn on the outside that the back of the boot starts to lean to one side and does not sit straight above the heel. [Petey McGuire's high heels were *run-over*; his Stetson was shapeless; his jeans were worn through at the knees. –*The Toughest Ranger*]

rurales: (noun) (Spanish) Mexican Rural Guard, a force of mounted police. They wore a distinctive gray uniform braided in silver, a wide sombrero and red or black necktie. Their roles paralleled the Texas Rangers. ["The *rurales* would have your scalp in a week and your gold too." –*Silent Pard*s]

rustlers: (noun) slang for those who steal, usually cattle. ["It's a question of punchin' *rustlers*.
–*The Toughest Ranger*]

saddle horn: (noun) high "knob" at the front and top of certain saddles. [Mile after mile, mile after mile, and above, the scorching sun hammered molten arrows into Petey's back, made the brass *saddle horn* too hot to touch. –*The Toughest Ranger*]

saddle tramp: (noun) a professional chuck-line (food-line) rider; anyone who is out of a job and riding through the country. Any worthy cowboy may be forced to ride chuck-line at certain seasons, but the professional chuck-line rider is just a plain range bum, despised by all cowboys. He is one who takes advantage of the country's hospitality and stays as long as he dares wherever there is no work for him to do and the meals are free and regular. ["*Saddle tramp*," Petey told Pat. "That's all I am." –*The Toughest Ranger*]

scourge: (noun) somebody or something that is perceived as an agent of punishment, destruction or severe criticism. ["Petey McGuire, the terror of the Mississippi, the *scourge* of Kansas and now the pride of the Arizona Rangers." –*The Toughest Ranger*]

serape: (noun) a long, brightly colored woolen blanket worn as a cloak by some men from Mexico, Central America and South America. [He had gone about a hundred yards away from his camp when a man in sombrero and *serape* stepped into the game trail before him. –*Silent Pard*s]

shale: (noun) a fine-grained rock of shell-like structure. [The man was scrambling and panting as he slipped in the *shale*. –*The Toughest Ranger*]

shoed: (verb) horse-shoed; when a blacksmith takes off the old horseshoe and puts a new one on the horse. ["I got to have a job. I got to get Pat *shoed* and get some oats into him before..." –*The Toughest Ranger*]

sink: (noun) a depression in the land surface where water has no outlet and simply stands. The word is usually applied to dry lake beds, where the evaporating water has left alkali and other mineral salts. ["We'll cross the *sink* by moonlight and be in Calexico in three days." –*Silent Pard*s]

sky-hooter: (noun) a night owl; a nocturnal bird of prey. Used figuratively. ["I hear you was once the roughest, toughest, rootity-tootiest *sky-hooter* in Arizona." –*The Toughest Ranger*]

sombrero: (noun) a Mexican style of hat that was common in the Southwest. It had a high-curved wide brim, a long, loose chin strap and the crown was dented at the top. [Cherokee might be termed a desert rat, his battered *sombrero* may have been greasy and stained.... –*Silent Pard*s]

sorrel: (noun) a horse with a reddish-brown coat. [And down it came Petey McGuire, leading his horse, the little *sorrel* named Pat. –*The Toughest Ranger*]

spit smoke: (verb) shoot a gun; an allusion to the smoke that comes out of the gun muzzle after it has been fired. [No jobs for a guy that can't *spit smoke*. –*The Toughest Ranger*]

Stetson: (noun) as the most popular broad-brimmed hat in the West, it became the generic name for *hat*. John B. Stetson was a master hat maker and founder of the company that has been making Stetsons since 1865. [Petey McGuire's high heels were run-over; his *Stetson* was shapeless; his jeans were worn through at the knees. –*The Toughest Ranger*]

stone hotel: (noun) a prison. [He had originally come from New York where he had been kicked around the gutters until he reached the sour old age of twelve and then he had spent some time as the guest of Uncle Sam in a *stone hotel*. –*The Toughest Ranger*]

strychnine: (noun) a very poisonous substance obtained from various kinds of plants. ["Gimme a shot of carbolic acid and don't go dilutin' it none with *strychnine!*" –*The Toughest Ranger*]

stud: (noun) stud poker; a game of poker in which the first round of cards is dealt face down, and the others face up. ["Would you mind a game of *stud?*" said Smoke. –*The Ranch That No One Would Buy*]

St. Vitus: (noun) St. Vitus' dance; a nervous disorder causing involuntary rapid movements likened to dancing. [They were in buckskin and leather and their eyes were like agates with *St. Vitus*. –*The Toughest Ranger*]

surlily: (adverb) in an ill-tempered manner; rude. [She backed up again and he *surlily* led Pat toward her so that she had to step out of the way again. –*The Toughest Ranger*]

swab out: (verb) to wash or wipe something in order to clean it. [In this town, he knew, he could *swab out* a bar for food. –*The Toughest Ranger*]

Texas: (noun) a .44- or .36-caliber revolver, made by Clark, Sherrard & Co. During the Civil War, they made a contract with the State of Texas to deliver these revolvers, intended for the Confederacy. More Texas revolvers were sold out the back door, for more money, than those delivered to the state. The name "Clark, Sherrard & Co/Lancaster Texas" is prominently stamped onto the barrel of the gun. ["Take him into the back room and get him a *Texas!*" said Smoke to Lush. –*The Ranch That No One Would Buy*]

thirteen steps: (noun) gallows; traditionally, there are thirteen steps leading up to a gallows. [And now Brad Thompson knew that he would soon see how it felt to walk up *thirteen steps* and dangle his rattlesnake body from a noose while his spurs jingled from dancing lightly upon the air. –*The Toughest Ranger*]

throw a shoe: (verb) when the horseshoe comes off the horse making it very difficult for him to walk. [Pat had *thrown a shoe* and Pat had spent himself on a journey of a thousand miles and Pat, oatless these many weeks, was a dead horse unless he got rest and care. –*The Toughest Ranger*]

tinhorn: (noun) someone, especially a gambler, who pretends to be important, but actually has little money, influence or skill. ["I come to this town," said Petey to the Mexican, "to generally work upon a gent named Brad Thompson, a penny-ante *tinhorn* and a coyote-hearted chicken thief." –*The Toughest Ranger*]

Uncle Sam: (noun) the cartoon embodiment of the government of the United States of America beginning in the first part of the nineteenth century. The initials US, of Uncle Sam, were also taken to stand for "United States." [He had originally come from New York where he had been kicked around the gutters until he reached the sour old age of twelve and then he had spent some time as the guest of *Uncle Sam* in a stone hotel. –*The Toughest Ranger*]

vacillated: (verb) to fluctuate from one idea to the other in uncertainty. [The bartender, being a Mexican, seeing the Ranger star, *vacillated* between diving out the back door and serving up the drink. –*The Toughest Ranger*]

veranda: (noun) an open, roofed patio or hallway connected to a building. [Guiltily she turned and walked down the *veranda* and when she turned a little to see if McGuire was still in sight, Shannon was still staring at her. –*The Toughest Ranger*]

visage: (noun) the face or look (resemblance) of a person or animal. [Petey whirled and looked up at the granite *visage* of the man. –*The Toughest Ranger*]

whippersnapper: (noun) an impertinent young person, usually a young man, who lacks proper respect for the older generation. [And here was a young *whippersnapper*... –*The Toughest Ranger*]

white feather: (noun) a single white feather is a symbol of cowardice. It comes from cockfighting, and the belief that a gamecock sporting a white feather in its tail is not a purebred and is likely to be a poor fighter. ["You wouldn't be showing the *white feather*, would you, Mr. Toughest Ranger?" –*The Toughest Ranger*]

Winchester: (noun) an early family of repeating rifles; a single-barreled rifle containing multiple rounds of ammunition. Manufactured by the Winchester Repeating Arms Company, it was widely used in the US during the latter half of the nineteenth century. [*Winchester* empty, Petey began to lay on with his Colt. –*The Toughest Ranger*]

wire gold: (noun) gold ore that looks like its description: fine, short pieces of wire, or a tangled wirelike mass. It is found mostly in pockets or veins. [One, for instance, was *wire gold*, a typical prospector's keepsake. –*Silent Pards*]

yahoo: (noun) an uncultivated person, yokel. "Yahoo" is a name invented by Jonathan Swift in *Gulliver's Travels* for an imaginary race of brutes having the form of men. ["The more I think of it," persisted Smoke, "the less reason I see for handin' seventy thousand over to the little *yahoo*." –*The Ranch That No One Would Buy*]

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