

Cielito Lindo (Pretty Darling)

This famous Mexican folk song became popular in the late 19th century. It is now considered the unofficial anthem of Mexico, and it has been recorded by many popular artists. It is often sung at sporting events. Below is an English translation of the words.

Cielito Lindo (Pretty Darling)

From Sierra Morena,
Pretty darling, coming down are
A pair of little black eyes,
Pretty darling, sneaking by.

Refrain:

Ay, ay, ay, ay,
Sing and don't cry,
Because by singing they get happy,
Pretty darling, our hearts.

A bird that abandons,
Pretty darling, his first nest,
If he later finds it occupied,
Pretty darling, he deserves it.

(Refrain)

That beauty mark that you have
Pretty darling, next to your mouth,
Don't give it to anyone,
Pretty darling, for it is mine.

(Refrain)

An arrow in the air
Pretty darling, Cupid launched.
If he shot it while playing,
Pretty darling, then he has hit me.

(Refrain)

Questions

1. Why should we sing and not cry?

2. What does the writer mean when he says Cupid "has hit me"?

3. The writer says the bird deserves to lose his nest. Why?

4. Who is the writer speaking to?

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Questions **Student's answers will vary;
examples of correct answer:**

1. Why should we sing and not cry?

**Because when we sing, our hearts
become happy.**

2. What does the writer mean when he says Cupid
"has hit me"?

**The writer means he has been hit by
Cupid's arrow and has fallen in love
with "pretty darling."**

3. The writer says the bird deserves to lose his nest.
Why?

**The bird deserves to lose its nest
because he left it.**

4. Who is the writer speaking to?

Someone he calls "pretty darling"