

PHILADELPHIA

TEXT 3: STREETS OF PHILADELPHIA

A song by Bruce Springsteen

I was bruised and battered and I couldn't tell what I felt
I was unrecognizable to myself
[I] Saw my reflection in a window I didn't know my own face
Oh brother are you gonna leave me wasting away

5 **On the streets of Philadelphia**

I walked the avenue till my legs felt like stone
I heard the voices of friends vanished and gone
At night I could hear the blood in my veins

10 Just as black and whispering as the rain

On the streets of Philadelphia

Ain't no angel gonna greet me⁴

It's just you and I my friend

15 And my clothes don't fit me no more

I walked a thousand miles
just to slip this skin

The night has fallen, I'm lying awake

20 I can feel myself fading away

So receive me brother with your faithless kiss
or will we leave each other alone like this

On the streets of Philadelphia

WORDS

Match these words with their synonyms.

- | | |
|----------------------------|--|
| a) slip one's skin (l. 17) | → 1) shed, cast (e.g. the snake <i>slipped</i> its skin) |
| b) bruise (l. 1) | 2) disappear |
| c) batter (l. 1) | 3) wound, injure |
| d) vanish (l. 8) | 4) beat |
| e) waste away (l. 4) | |
| f) fade away (l. 20) | |

ANALYSIS

1. Who does this song talk about? Who is "I"?
2. Why does the singer say, "*I was unrecognizable to myself*" and "*my clothes don't fit me no more*"?
3. "*I heard the voices of friends vanished and gone*": Who are these friends? What has happened to them?
4. "*It's just you and I my friend*": Who is "you"?

⁴ There is no angel who is going to meet me