

2- David loves reading about famous singers. Read the latest article that he has read and complete each blank with the correct tense.

Ritchie Valens

Richard Steve Valenzuela, the first major Hispanic – American rock star, was born on the 13th May, 1941 in Los Angeles. He _____ (grow up) in the city of Pacoima, California, in a poor family. His one passion _____ (be) music, and particularly liked “cowboy” songs, which _____ (be) very popular in America at that time. Some members of his family introduced him to traditional Mexican music and then, at school, he _____ (discover) rock ‘n roll.

While he _____ (attend) classes at junior high school, he started playing music. In 1956 he joined his first band, but it was as a solo artist that he made his first single (*Come on let's go*) at the age of sixteen. Bob Keane, his producer, thought: “If I _____ (change) Ritchie's name from ‘Valenzuela’ to ‘Valens’, he _____ (become) more popular”. And a legend was born.

Although Ritchie's best-known single is *La Bamba*, it only reached number 22 in the charts in 1958. Then he wrote a song about a school friend which _____ (call) *Donna*. This was his biggest hit, which reached number 2 in the charts the same year.

Sadly, Ritchie died in 1959, in a plane crash, with Buddy Holly, who was another famous singer of the time.

Since his death, his popularity _____ (grow) and, in 1987, a film of his life _____ (make) by important producers. The name of the film was, of course, *La Bamba*!