

Focus Text

“Paul Revere’s Ride”

Author

Henry Wadsworth Longfellow (1807-1882)

Literary Period

Romantic Realism

Something to Think About

Henry Wadsworth Longfellow tells a patriotic story in the form of a narrative poem. Observe how he uses vivid details and variations in pacing to create a dramatic tale.

Longfellow has been criticized for fictionalizing some of the details of the poem, but in an insightful essay, poet Dana Gioia explains that Longfellow’s purpose is to create in Revere a “symbolic figure who awakens America to fight for freedom.”

You will find a link to Gioia’s complete essay at:

<https://excellence-in-literature.com/paul-reveres-ride-by-henry-wadsworth-longfellow/>.

Week 1: Absorb

Print out the poem and read it silently, then aloud. Listen to the reading at (scroll to the bottom of the page): <https://excellence-in-literature.com/paul-reveres-ride-by-henry-wadsworth-longfellow/>.

Practice reading the poem aloud at least three times, paying attention to the rhythm as you go. Do not exaggerate the accented syllables, but use the video narration as a model (see the video in the online version of the poem: <https://excellence-in-literature.com/paul-reveres-ride-by-henry-wadsworth-longfellow/>)

Copy the poem in handwriting or type it on the computer (do not copy and paste).



You can find out more about reading poetry aloud at:

<https://excellence-in-literature.com/read-poetry-aloud/>.

This is an excellent poem for memorization and recitation, so memorize at least part of it if you have time.

To Come This Month:

- Analyze “Paul Revere’s Ride”
- Transform
- Create

SAMPLE