

NAME: _____

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From “Paul Revere’s Ride”

Henry Wadsworth Longfellow

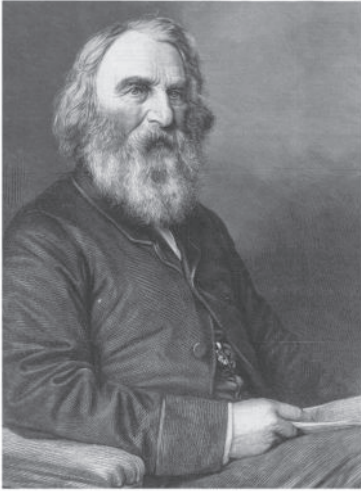
Written in 1860

Listen, my children, and you shall hear 1
Of the midnight ride of Paul Revere, 2
On the eighteenth of April, in Seventy-Five; 3
Hardly a man is now alive 4
Who remembers that famous day and year. 5

He said to his friend, “If the British march 1
By land or sea from the town to-night, 2
Hang a lantern aloft in the belfry-arch 3
Of the North-Church-tower, as a signal-light, — 4
One if by land, and two if by sea; 5
And I on the opposite shore will be, 6
Ready to ride and spread the alarm 7
Through every Middlesex village and farm, 8
For the country-folk to be up and to arm. 9

Meanwhile, impatient to mount and ride, 1
Booted and spurred, with a heavy stride, 2
On the opposite shore walked Paul Revere. 3
Now he patted his horse’s side, 4
Now gazed on the landscape far and near, 5
Then impetuous stamped the earth, 6

And turned and tightened his saddle-girth; 7
But mostly he watched with eager search 8
The belfry-tower of the old North Church, 9
As it rose above the graves on the hill, 10
Lonely and spectral and somber and still. 11
And lo! as he looks, on the belfry's height, 12
A glimmer, and then a gleam of light! 13
He springs to the saddle, the bridle he turns, 14
But lingers and gazes, till full on his sight 15
A second lamp in the belfry burns! 16



About the Author

Henry Wadsworth Longfellow is well-known for writing many poems about American history. “Paul Revere’s Ride” was first published in 1860 to inspire American patriotism in the months leading up to the Civil War.