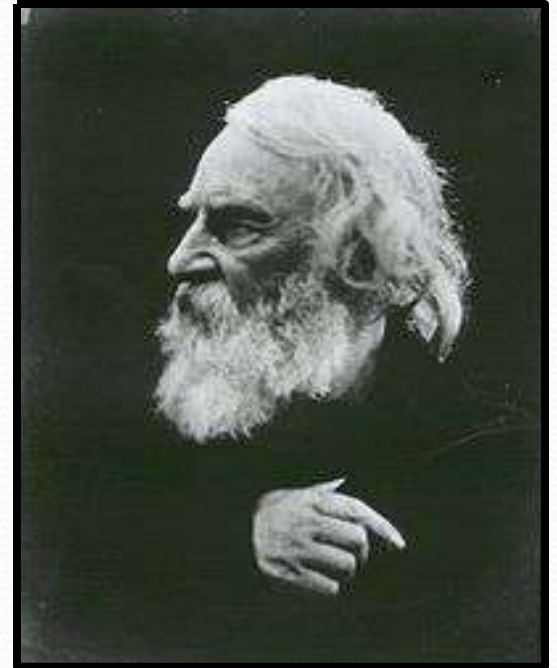


“The Tide Rises, the Tide Falls”

- By Henry Wadsworth Longfellow
- Based on the title, what do you think this poem is going to be about?
- Note the connection that the American Romantics make between nature and life.

Henry Wadsworth Longfellow

- noted as the most popular American poet of the 19th century.
- His poetry and narrative works are lyrical with an easy rhythm, making them memorable.
- Uplifting with topics the "every man" can relate to, Longfellow's poetry hums in people's minds like a favorite song.



His Life

- Born in Maine.
- One of his grandfathers was a state Senator and the other grandfather had been a Revolutionary War general and a Congressman.
- After the death of his first wife, Mary, on 7/13/1843 Longfellow married Francis Elizabeth "Fanny" Appleton (1817-1861) with whom he would have six children
- 1861 Fanny's dress suddenly caught fire from a candle & she was engulfed in flames.
- Henry suffered from depression from that point on.

“The Tide Rises, the Tide Falls”

The tide rises, the tide falls,
The twilight darkens, the curlew calls;
Along the sea-sands damp and brown
The traveler hastens toward the town,
And the tide rises, the tide falls.

Darkness settles on roofs and walls,
But the sea, the sea in darkness calls;
The little waves, with their soft, white hands
Efface the footprints in the sands,
And the tide rises, the tide falls.

The morning breaks; the steeds in their stalls
Stamp and neigh, as the hostler calls;
The day returns, but nevermore
Returns the traveler to the shore.
And the tide rises, the tide falls.

“The Tide Rises, the Tide Falls”



- **Speaker** of the Poem:
~ middle-aged to older man (not necessarily, but probably the poet)
- voice of the speaker:
third person
- contemplative

Mood & Tone

- Mood:
Reminiscent

- Tone:
Soothing

- Three examples of words/phrases that create the mood & tone of this poem:
 1. “The traveler hastens toward the town,”
 2. “Efface the footprints in the sands,”
 3. “And the tide rises, the tide falls.”

Audience

- Himself

(contemplations of the speaker)

Main Message / Theme

- Subject:
the cycle of
life & nature

- Theme:
Even through
sorrow &
desolation
surrounds
death, life
continues on its
normal cycle.

Poem Form & Meter

- Romantic Poem:
 - looking at **nature** to sooth the soul
 - three stanzas of five lines each
 - The **rhyme scheme** for the entire **poem** is *aabba aacca aadda*
- **repetition** of the same **refrain** at the end of each stanza (epiphora) creates an consistent repetition creating the impression of an **unchanging natural world**.
- each line has from seven to ten syllables
- meter is predominately **iambic tetrameter**
- The **caesura** (pause in the middle of lines) adds a solemn or formal feeling to the poem

Literary Elements

- **Personification**: give something NON-HUMAN, human characteristics...
 - ~ “The little waves, with their soft, white hands / Efface the footprints...”
- **Alliteration**: the repetition of consonant sounds at the beginning of words
 - ~ “...the curlew calls;”
 - ~ “...the sea-sands...”
- **Symbol**: something that stands for itself & something larger at the same time.
 - ~ The tide rising & falling is a symbol for the cycle of life.

Shifts in the Poem's Tone/Message

- None Present!
 - No “shift”

“Psalm of Life”

Read and annotate for:

- Literary devices (simile, metaphor, alliteration, personification, repetition, rhyme scheme)
- Theme/message (What message does the writer reveal?)
- Examples of Romantic qualities (formal language, idealism of self, emotional intensity, nature as a source of spirituality, honor/integrity, universal truths)

“The Cross of Snow”

- Based on this title, what do you think this poem will be about?

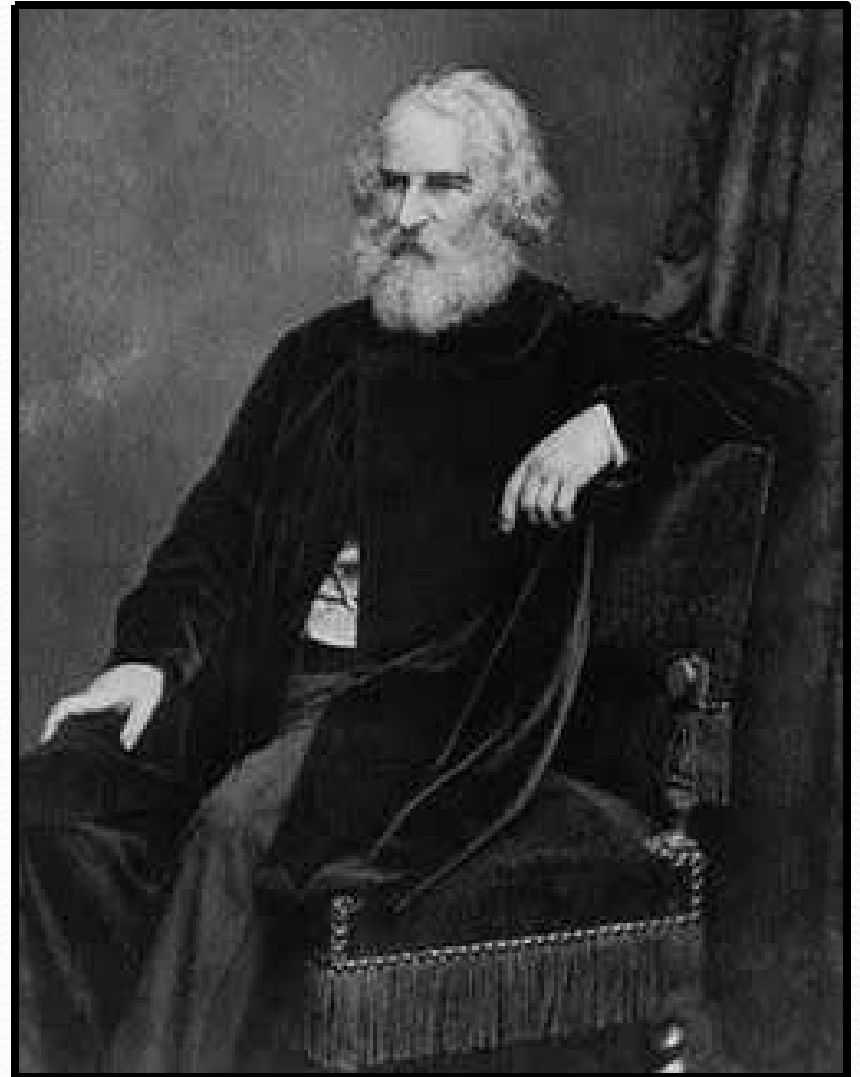
~I think that this poem will be about....

“The Cross of Snow”

In the long, sleepless watches of the night,
A gentle face -- the face of one long dead --
Looks at me from the wall, where round its head
The night-lamp casts a halo of pale light.
Here in this room she died; and soul more white
Never through martyrdom of fire was led
To its repose; nor can in books be read
The legend of a life more benedight.
There is a mountain in the distant West
That, sun-defying, in its deep ravines
Displays a cross of snow upon its side.
Such is the cross I wear upon my breast
These eighteen years, through all the changing scenes.

“The Cross of Snow”

- Speaker of the Poem: the poet – Henry Wadsworth Longfellow.
- Voice of Speaker:
~ first person – “I”



Mood & Tone

- Mood:
Reminiscent
- Tone:
Full of Guilt or
Grief /
Remorseful
- Examples of words/phrases that create the mood & tone of the poem:
 1. “Here in this room she died”
 2. “A gentle face – the face of one long dead –”
 3. “Looks at me from the wall –”

Audience



- Fanny
- Himself

Main Message / Theme

- Subject:
struggling to
overcome grief
- Theme:
Some things in life
are too horrible to
ever overcome, so
we must find a
way to cope.

Poem Form & Meter

- Romantic Poem: looking at **nature** to help cope with a loss
- This is a **sonnet**!
 - ~ this poem is an **Italian** sonnet (Petrarchan sonnet)
 - ~ a poem made up of **14 lines** where there is an **obvious break (“volta) at line 9**
- This is also a **lyric** poem
- Each line of has about 10 syllables.
- The meter is **iambic pentameter** (famous in sonnets)
- **Rhyme Scheme:**
abba / abba / cde / cde

Literary Elements

- **Symbol**: something that stands for itself & something larger at the same time.
 - ~The **cross** of snow on the mountain & the **cross** on his chest both symbolize a badge of icy pain & grief the speaker wears. What is the “cross on his chest”? His unending grief and pain.
 - ~Just like the cross of snow on the mountain side, the speaker’s grief will never melt or decrease.

Literary Elements

- **Hyperbole**: A figure of speech in which exaggeration is used for emphasis or effect (often simile or metaphor).

~ “Never through martyrdom of fire was led / To its repose; nor can in books be read / The legend of a life more benedight.”

~ implies that no one has ever equaled the goodness of his wife, saying that there has “never” been a soul more white or a life as blessed

Literary Elements

- **Metaphor**: a comparison of two unlike things NOT using the connecting words as, like, than, or resembles.

~The metaphor in the **sestet** (6 Lines) compares a literal cross of un-melted snow on a mountainside to the figurative cross of grief & pain the speaker wears on his chest. This grief, like the cross of snow, is “sun-defying” and “deep” because it cannot be melted or erased by any ray of happiness.

Shift in Tone

- No major shift in tone
- A major shift occurs between lines 8 & 9, shifting the **focus** between the octave and the sestet as is typical in an Italian sonnet. What is the term for this **shift**? “**volta**”
- The **octave** focuses on the speaker’s sleeplessness & his memories of his wife, the sestet on the literal & symbolic crosses of snow worn by the mountain & the speaker.



The End