

# The Fireside Poets

America's First Literary  
[Rock]Stars



# What are the Fireside Poets

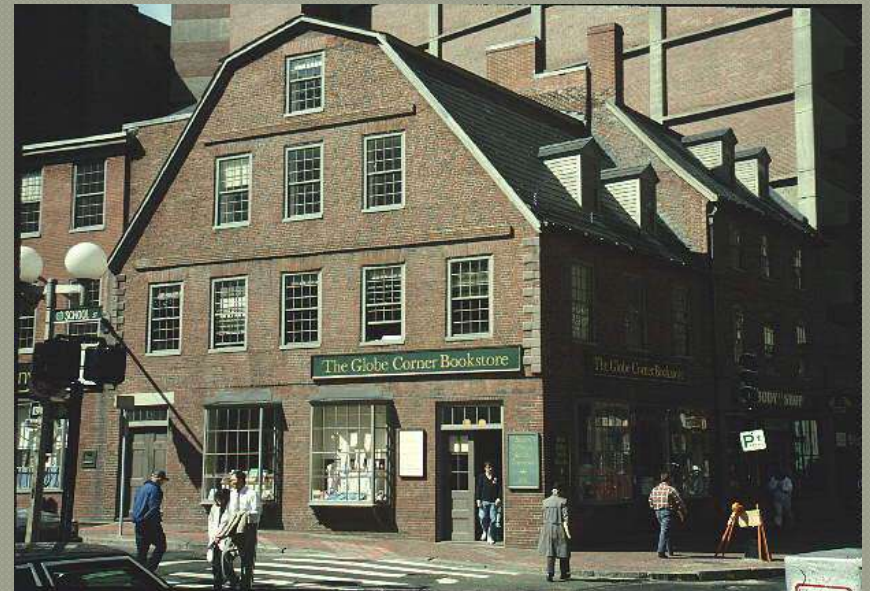
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- First group of American poets to rival British poets in popularity in either country.
- Notable for their scholarship and the resilience of their lines and themes.
- Preferred conventional forms over experimentation.
- Often used American legends and scenes of American life as their subject matter

# Who were the Fireside Poets

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- Henry Wadsworth Longfellow
- William Cullen Bryant
- James Russell Lowell
- Oliver Wendell Holmes
- John Greenleaf Whittier



# Where did they get the name?

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- Also called Schoolroom or Household Poets
- Adherence to poetic conventions made poems easy to memorize or recite in school and also at home by the fireside for entertainment
  - Standard forms
  - Regular meter
  - Rhymed stanzas

# Henry Wadsworth Longfellow

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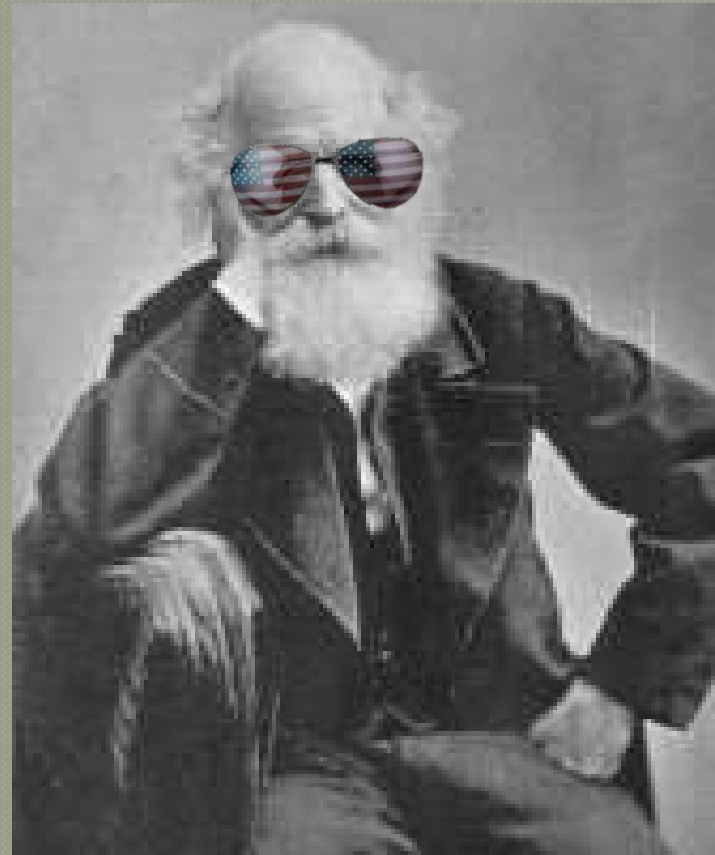
- 1807-1882
- Composed
  - “Song of Hiawatha”
  - “Paul Revere’s Ride”
  - “Psalm of Life”
  - “The Day is Done”
- Translated Dante’s *Inferno* from Italian into English



# William Cullen Bryant

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- 1794-1878
- Composed:
  - “To a Waterfowl”
  - “Thanatopsis”
- One of the founders of the Republican party and supporter of Lincoln



# James Russell Lowell

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- 1819-1891
- Composed
  - “The First Snowfall”
  - “The Present Crisis”
- Active in anti-slavery causes



# Oliver Wendell Holmes

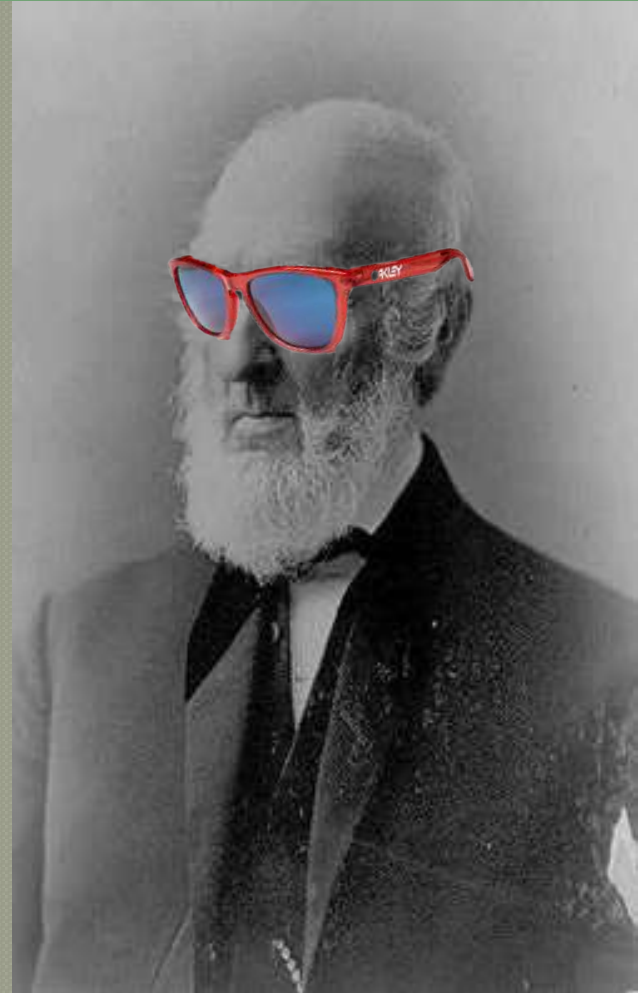
- 1809-1894
- Medical Doctor—  
invented the term  
“anesthesia.”
- Composed:
  - “Old Ironsides”
  - Saved the USS  
Constitution from the  
scrapyard
- Father of Supreme  
Court Justice Oliver  
Wendell Holmes, Jr





# John Greenleaf Whittier

- 1807-1892
- Composed:
  - *Snowbound*
  - “Maud Muller”
  - “Barefoot Boy”
- Active in anti-slavery movement



# Lasting Impact

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- Longfellow remained the most popular American poet for decades.
  - Longfellow remains the only American poet to be immortalized by a bust in Westminster Abbey's Poets' Corner
- They took on causes in their poetry, such as the abolition of slavery, which brought the issues to the forefront in a palatable way.
- Through their scholarship and editorial efforts, they paved the way for later Romantic writers like Ralph Waldo Emerson, Henry David Thoreau, and Walt Whitman.

# TPCASTT Project

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- Divide into groups

- Pick a poem

- Read a poem  
aloud as a group

- Complete  
**T.P.C.A.S.T.T.**

- **T** Title

- **P** Paraphrase

- **C** Connotation

- **A** Attitude

- **S** Shift

- **T** Title

- **T** Theme

**Let's try an example!**

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# 2<sup>nd</sup> Period

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## ● Group 1

- Brendan, Lucas, Olivia, Richon

## ● Group 2

- Sadie, Dashad, Myles

## ● Group 3

- Ashleigh, Troy, DeAndre

## ● Group 4

- Uri, Trevor, D'marcus, Sedric

## ● Group 5

- Kameron, Brent, Makaylah

## ● Group 6

- Micah, Devin, Desmond

## ● Group 7

- Danielle, Lauren, Ladonta

## ● Group 8

- Erin, Sakeem, Ashley, Teiarra