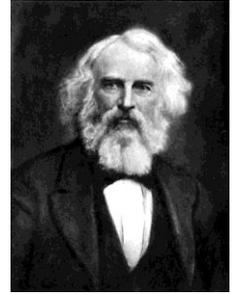


## HENRY WADSWORTH LONGFELLOW

### His Life

- He was a descendant of John & Priscilla Alden of the Mayflower.
- His mom read aloud to the children in the family which developed his literary abilities.
- Irving's "The Sketch Book" was the work most influential to him as a child.
- He attended Bowdoin College in Maine.  
Upon graduation, he was given a position as Professor of Modern Languages.
- His first wife - Mary - died on European trip.
- His second wife - Fanny - married him in 1843.
- They had five children together  
two boys and the three girls whom the poet describes in 'The Children's Hour' as "grave Alice and laughing Allegra and Edith with golden hair."
- After 18 years of marriage, Fanny was burned to death when her dress caught fire.  
Henry was also burned on his hands and face when trying to save her.  
This is why he wore a beard the rest of his life.
- His poetry took a melancholy turn after Fanny's death
- During the Civil War years (1860-1865), Henry used his poems to express his views, but he was not very politically-minded
- He died in 1882.
- He was the first American to be able to quit his job and make a living from writing poetry.
- He was the first American to have a memorial bust of him placed in "Poet's Corner" of Westminster Abbey.



### His Works

He wrote about

- American settings and landscape
- typical human experiences of love, joy, sorrow, & hope
- American history and tradition ('The Courtship of Miles Standish', 'Evangeline', 'Song of Hiawatha')

**There are two main reasons for the popularity and significance of Longfellow's poetry.**

(1) First, he had the gift of easy rhyme.

- Read or heard even once or twice, his rhyme and meters cling to the mind.

(2) Second, Longfellow wrote on obvious themes which appeal to all kinds of people.

- His poems are easily understood
- His poems contain a joyousness, a spirit of optimism and faith in the goodness of life which evokes immediate response in the emotions of his readers.

### His Epic Poems

1. Evangeline - 1847

- legendary story of women's search for her lost love

2. The Song of Hiawatha - 1855

- Story of the life of Hiawatha
- Hiawatha's Childhood is Chapter 3 of this epic work

3. The Courtship of Miles Standish - 1858

- Sweet story of how his ancestors John & Priscilla Alden of the Mayflower ended up together

### Other Favorites

- The Midnight Ride of Paul Revere - 1860
- The Children's Hour - 1863
- The Village Blacksmith - 1840
- A Psalm of Life
- The Cross of Snow - written as a reflection on the death of

