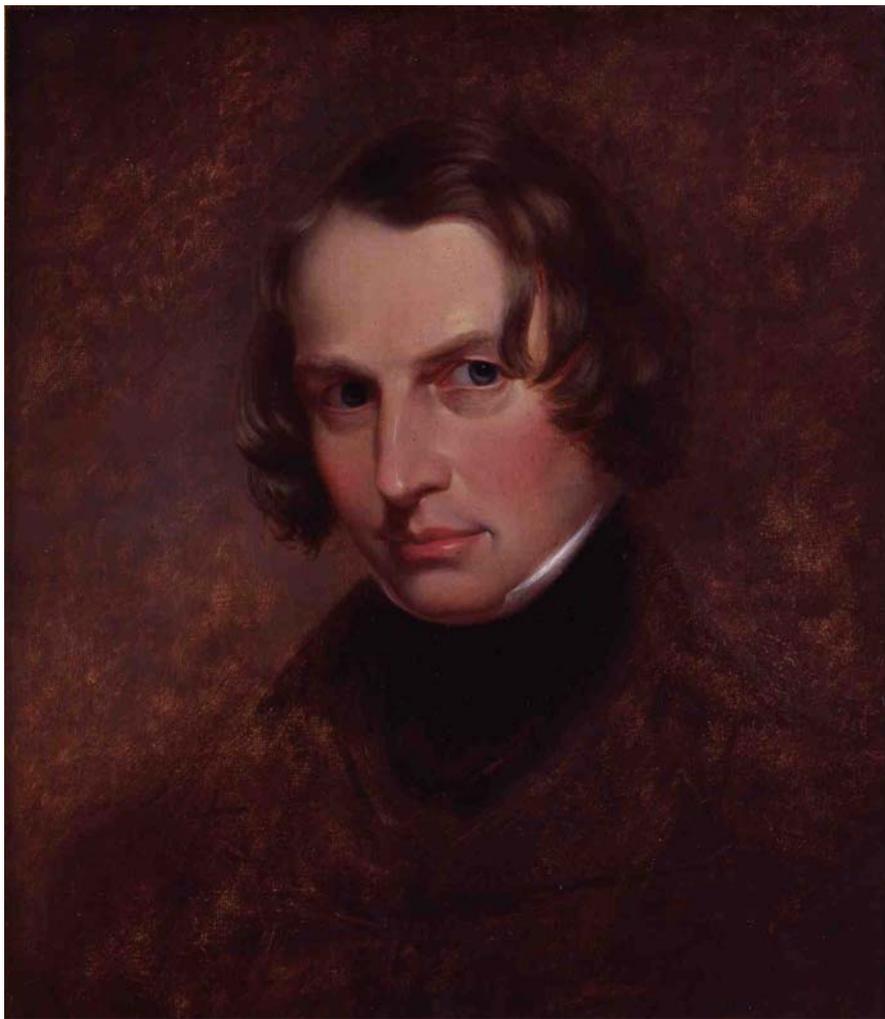


# Poetry and the Imagination:

The Legacy of Henry  
Wadsworth Longfellow



A POETRY UNIT FOR GRADES 3 – 6

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## Unit Overview

*...poetry is the flower and perfume of thought, and a perpetual delight,  
clothing the common- place of life with 'golden exhalations of the dawn.'*

Henry Wadsworth Longfellow, 1875

### Unit Description

*Poetry and the Imagination: The Legacy of Henry Wadsworth Longfellow* introduces students to the poetry and life of one of the world's most celebrated and beloved poets, and cultivates skills essential for reading, writing, analyzing, and appreciating poetry and the creative process.

The unit includes a series of teacher-directed activities and a rubric for assessing student achievement of intended learning outcomes.

### Sequenced Learning Activities

Activities are carefully sequenced to bring students through a learning cycle. A brief description of each activity is listed below. We encourage you to adapt the activities to meet your pedagogical goals and the needs of your students.

***Learning about Longfellow*** introduces students to Longfellow's life and work. Activities set the stage for studying Longfellow poetry.

***The Poet's Toolbox*** familiarizes students with the basic compositional elements of poetry.

***Drafting and Editing Poetry*** engages students in comparing draft and finished versions of a Longfellow poem to learn about the creative writing process.

***Compiling a Writer's Magazine*** inspires students to create a magazine of their own using poems, stories, drawings, and puzzles created by classmates.

## **Using the Teacher's Guide**

The structure of this Teacher's Guide is straightforward. Teaching plans and support materials are listed sequentially in the Table of Contents. Each teaching plan follows a similar format designed to help facilitate student learning:

*Introduction:* Summarizes what your students will do and how the activity ties to the overall program.

*Intended Learning Outcomes (Understandings & Skills):* Concepts and skills students should understand and/or be able to demonstrate after completing the activity.

*Lesson Length:* The minimum amount of time needed to complete the activity.

*Teacher Preparation:* Things you should do prior to introducing the activity to the class (e.g. selecting worksheets, copying materials).

*Materials:* A list of the materials needed to facilitate the activity. Materials listed in italic are included in the guide.

*Activities:* Step-by-step instructions for facilitating the learning activity with students.

*Links to the Massachusetts Curriculum Frameworks:* Lists the activity's ties to learning standards in the Massachusetts Curriculum Frameworks for English Language Arts.

The unit includes a rubric to help you assess student achievement of intended learning outcomes.

# Lesson Plans



## **Learning about Longfellow**

Henry Wadsworth Longfellow Crossword

Henry Wadsworth Longfellow Word Match



## **The Poet's Toolbox**

The Music of Words

Rhyme

A "Poetry Rap" – Rhythm

Simile and Metaphor

Descriptive Imagery

Secondary Poetic Elements



## **Drafting and Editing Poetry**

Understanding Longfellow's Draft

Editing a Poem

Looking at Longfellow's Choices



## **Compiling a Writer's Magazine**

Looking at *The Secret*

Writing Poetry

Writing Rebuses and Transposition Riddles

Writing a Story

Assembling the Magazine