

H. W. Longfellow - Famous for His Songs and Narrative Poems

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Abstract: *The poet, H. W. Longfellow through his poems have given a detailed description of how he has created lasting cultural myths from American history and Native American Legends and gained popularity of the 19th Century as a 'public poet'. He has narrated beautifully through his messages and themes how the core message about the lasting, sometimes invisible, consequences of our words and deeds. How the unseen journey both the arrow and the song travel far beyond the initial moment of action and how the song finds its echo in a friend's heart highlights the enduring power of kind words and actions.*

Keywords: H. W. Longfellow, cultural, yellow mansion, unique, messages and themes

1. Introduction

H. W. Longfellow was born in February, 27, 1807 and died on March, 24, 1882 at the age of 75. He was born in Portland, Massachusetts (now in Maine). He graduated from Bowdoin College and became a professor there. He created lasting cultural myths from American history and Native American legends. He was the most popular American poet of the 19th century known as the public poet "for lyrical style and made him a beloved and influential figure" and for his "uplifting, and musical lyrical style".

2. Research Methods

His research methods have been dealt in the paragraphs shown below.

Longfellow home and interesting facts about him

The historic yellow mansion in Cambridge, Massachusetts was home to one of the world's foremost poets and scholars and educators. He lived here for 1843 and till his death in 1882 and produced many of his most famous poems and translations here. He married Mary Storer Potter in September, 1831. She died four years later of complications following a miscarriage while travelling through Europe with her husband. Longfellow met his second wife Francis Elizabeth Appleton in 1835, though they did not marry until 1843. Longfellow published in 1872 what he intended to be his master piece 'Christus' of Mystery, a trilogy dealing with Christianity from its beginning.

Interesting facts about Longfellow

He spoke at least 8 languages well and could read and write 4 others. His most famous poem 'Paul Revere's Ride' and 'Evangeline' were narrative poems that created lasting culture myths and American history and native American legends.

His works and Contributions

1. The poem "The Revere's Ride" immortalizes the midnight ride of Paul Revere during the American Revolution becoming a memorable part of American history, through with artistic license taken from

historical facts.

2. The poem 'The song of Hiawatha' is a well-known epic poem that draws from Native American legends and themes exploring the life and adventures of mythical figure 'Hiawatha'.
3. The Poem "Event line: A tale of Acadie" is a long and narrative poem about the tragic expulsion of the Acadians and the journey of a woman for her first love Evangeline.
4. The poem "The courtship of Miles Standish" is a narrative poem that tells the story of early pilgrim life and a famous love triangle involving Pocahontas.
5. 'A Psalm of life', is a short inspirational poem that encouraged readers to live with the purpose and make their lives.

Most famous poem

His most famous poem 'Paul Revere's Ride' in 1860 in the midst of a national crisis that would break out into a war later. He was a pace first and an abolitionist, though quiet compared to his friend Senator Charles Sumner (18th July, 2024).

Long fellows' unique poem

His unique poem includes narrative works like 'The song of Hiawatha' and 'Evangeline' which use native American and colonial American themes and even foundational in creative American mythology. He is also known for his popular poems such as 'Paul Revere's Ride' 'A Psalm of life' and the village Blacksmith' which were distinguished by their accessible language strong narrative and patriotic moral theses. His work in the United States America and bringing European literary traditions. His poems are unique for two reasons.

First, he had the gifts of easy rhyme and second, he wrote poetry as a bird sing with nature grace and melody.

Message given by his poems

1. 'A Psalm of Life' by Longfellow encourages us to live to the fullest, take action and leave lasting impact.
2. 'Haunted House' is a complex poem showing study with Sudhir's detailed exp.
3. 'The tide rises' is about the perk of booms.
4. Morituro salutamus is about the growing border.

His favourite poems include 'Scourfy' 'Livrivol' 'Adiboo-voices of Abenight', 'Live without regret' 'My last youth' and 'The day is done (Popular) The Arrow and the song' by him using the metaphors of a short arrow and both harmful and kind, using the metaphase of a short arrow and a son sung to show how actions and words, have far reaching and enduring impacts that often go unseen. The arrow finds a lasting, sometimes unintended lodging in an oak tree while the song though disappearing is found again in the heart of a friend, symbolising how words can leave lasting marks whether intentional or not.

Themes

1. Lasting Impact - The core message is about the lasting sometimes invisible consequence of our words and deeds.
2. The unseen journey - Both the arrow and the song travel far beyond the initial moment of action.
3. The power of kindness - The song finds its echo in a friend "heart and high lights the enduring power of kind words and actions".
4. Mindfulness - The poem serves us as a reminder to be thoughtful and considerate in our interactions our when seemingly small acts or words can have deep and lasting efforts.

3. Summary

H. W. Longfellow, in his summary has highlighted some of the basic things about his poems. The poet (i) himself in the poem has stated how he shot an arrow and sang a song. (ii) How in 'the Flight of the Arrow', he shot an arrow and could not see where it landed but long afterward found it still unbroken in an oak tree. (iii) In his 'The Flight of the song he sang a song and could not hear where it ended (iv) In the "Repercussions", long afterwards he found the song again, from beginning to end in the heart of a friend.

His best poems

I have quoted here some of his best poems in his words only which were based on love and friendship.

The Arrow and the Song

I shot an arrow into the air,
It fell to earth I know not where, for so softly it flew, the
sight Could not follow it its flight

I breathed a song into the air, it fell to earth, I knew not
where,

For who has sight so keen and strong That it can follow
the flight of a song?

Long long afterward, in an oak I found the arrow still
unbroke

And the song from beginning to end I found again in the
heart of a friend

The Light of Stars

The night is come, but not too soon and making clouds
All silently, the little moon Drops down behind the sky.

There is a light in earth or heaven but the cold light of
stars

And the first watch of night is given to the planet Mars

Is the tender star of love?

The shot of love and dreams? Oh no from that blue bent
above A hero's armour gleams.

And earnest thoughts within the rine, When I behold a far
Suspended in the evening skies, The Shield of that red
star.

O Star of thought, see the stand and smile upon my pain
Through back a net with the mounted hard And I am
string again

Within my breast there is no light but the cold light of
stars

I give the first watch of night to the red planet Mars.

The star of the unconquered well He rises in my breast
Serene and resolute and still and calm and self-possessed

And though too whose thought set That made it this brief
palm

As come by one though hopes depart Be resolute and
come

Sleep

Lull me to sleep, ye winds whose fitful sound Seems from
some faint Aeolian harp spring caught Seat up the hundred
wakeful eyes of thought

As Hermes with lyre in sleep performed the hundred
wakeful eyes of Agnes bound For, I am weary and am
overwrought

With too much toil, with too much care distraught and
with the iron crown of anguish crowned Lay they soft
hand upon my brow and cheek

Peaceful sleep! until from pain released, I breathe again
uninterrupted breathe!

Ah, with what subtle meaning did the Greek Call the
lesser mystery of the feast

Where of the greatest mystery is death

The Quadroon Girl

The silver in the broad lagoon Lay moored with little sail,
He waited for the rising moon, And the evening gale.

Under the store of his boat tied and all the listless crew
Watched the gray alligator slide into the still bay on

The Tide Rises & falls

The tide rises, the tide falls

The twilight darkens, the curlew calls, Along the sea sands
deep and known 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 stood in the stalls Stamp and
neigh, as the hostler calls,

The day returns but never more Returns the traveler to the
shore And the tide rises, the tide falls.

Besides there are other poems such as Nature, Stamp, A
day of sunshine, The Heart of Friend, Loss and Gain etc.
It would not be out of place to mention here that he was
one of the greatest 19th Century poets. His writings are as
simple as anyone can understand. Though his poems lack
the sensuousness of Keats, the harshness of Byron, red in
tooth and claw and the simplicity of Wordsworth yet he
stands above all as his writings are as simple as
Wordsworth which every common man can understand.

Language and Style

The language and style used in the poems are very easy
and can easily be understood by every common man.

Glossary

- 1.H. W. Longfellow
- 2.Yellow mansion
- 3.Narrative
- 4.Famous
- 5.Unique
- 6.Message
- 7.Favourite