



Favorite Poems

Henry Wadsworth Longfellow

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Henry Wadsworth Longfellow (1807-1882) was the most popular American poet of his time, and one of the most famous American poets of all time. It has been said that certain of his poems - the long narratives *Evangeline* and *The Song of Hiawatha* most notably--were once read in every literate home in America.

Favorite Poems Details

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Lorena says

I like to read these at night when my house is quiet. I have a dream of reading these poems by candlelight, as they may have been written, read or pondered in times before me. The sentiments expressed reveal many hours of reflection on the mysteries of life, seemingly uninterrupted by trivial noises that crowd our lives now, like radio, news, and tv.

James Violand says

He may be dated in the age of free verse, but his talent is clear. A truly American poet (he seems little affected by any European influence) he should be known for more than Hiawatha. Enjoyable and tending to praise our heritage. I like it.

Zebardast Zebardast says

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Rob says

Then read from the treasured volume
The poem of thy choice,
And lend to the rhyme of the poet
The beauty of thy voice.

And the night shall be filled with music,
And the cares, that infest the day,
Shall fold their tents, like the Arabs,
And as silently steal away.

Hannah says

Longfellow is quite a clever fellow (his last name is enviable). He uses a variety of forms of poetry; 'Paul Revere', as what he's known for, is excellent.

I read lots of his poems alongside Dickinson; it was an interesting contrast between a man's perspective on life and poetry and a woman's. I'm a girl, so I leaned toward Emily's, but Longfellow's got a few profound thoughts that keep you captive a moment to reread the sentence in amazement to get it all again.

This is going to sound *dreadfully* picky, but the reason I gave this book 4/5 instead of 5/5 was for 'The Courtship of Miles Standish'; it had its moments of dragging, where the verse wasn't adding anything but volume and stuffing, and, because I am so needy—it didn't rhyme. I'm mostly fine with verses that don't rhyme, but it would've been deeper and more breath-taking, I believe, if the depth of rhyme was added. But overall a good volume of poetry to feed the soul.

Courtney Mosier Warren says

A really lovely collection.

Zebardast Zebardast says

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Dolors says

A brief but complete compilation of poems to get to know Longfellow.
I loved "The courtship of Miles Standish" and his nostalgic recollections of lost times and youth. Very sensitive and solemn, good to be aware of the earth beneath your feet.

Chava says

Dreadful. But so rhyme! I know, he must be viewed within his context, and it is true enough that he's fun to read. He's the anti-haiku poet. Longfellow was once a child's first exposure to poetry; perhaps not the best idea. At least he did not write 'Curfew Shall Not Ring Tonight.'

J. Alfred says

Longfellow is one of those guys that I'd heard about for years, but never actually encountered. It turns out he's sort of a bizarro Housman: everything rhymes and is Romantic, but also wholesome and wonderful. Kudos on making the Puritans good guys! Good stuff all around.

Sage says

It was amazing poetry, My eyes flew through the pages like water.

Margaret Harris says

I was surprised at how much I loved this book, which was inherited from an aunt several years ago and had been patiently resting on my to-be-read shelf. How sad that school children are no longer required to read, and sometimes memorize, Longfellow's works. "Paul Revere's Ride" is not just literature in a happy rhythm, it is history with an emotional poignancy. This collection intersperses short verses with the most well-known longer story poems such as "The Song of Hiawatha" and "The Courtship of Miles Standish." All are delightful. Through the weeks that I worked my way through the pages, I fell asleep each night with a cadence of the rhymes read just before my lids closed. Many lines were familiar, some not, but all seem fresh, despite their age of nearly two centuries. I pronounce them worthy escapism from today's more coarse world.

K.D. says

My mom first gave me this back in college when I was totally stressed about finals. I was actually really turned off from poetry in high school; if the poems they teach don't kill you, the student's interpretations will. Somehow I always end up re-reading this every couple of months. My favorite poem in here is, "The Light of Stars"...

"Oh, fear not in a world like this,
And thou shall know erelong,
Know how sublime a thing it is
To suffer and be strong."

Emily says

My late grandmother gave me this book of poems fifteen years ago, and I am ashamed to say that I just read it all the way through for the first time. Longfellow was one of her favorites, along with Dickinson. She starred her favorite poems, which are mine also, *The Village Blacksmith* and *The Arrow and the Song*. I clearly remember her reciting these to me growing up, and I can almost recite both myself entirely from memory. I also really enjoyed *The Courtship of Miles Standish*, which was new to me. I am very glad that I took the time to read this book, although I regret that it is too late to talk about it with her.

Douglas Wilson says

Enjoyed very much. Particularly like running across well-worn phrases that I presume originated with Longfellow -- ships passing in the night, patter of little feet, into each life some rain must fall. I particularly enjoyed Miles Standish, which I somehow don't think I have ever read before.
