

Meadowlawn Middle School
Winter Brain Builder ELA Boot Camp
8th Grade



Name: Class: **Paul Revere's Ride**

By Henry Wadsworth Longfellow 1860

Henry Wadsworth Longfellow (1807-1882) was an American poet. This piece, written nearly a century after the events occurred, tells the story of Paul Revere, whose ride through greater Boston one night in 1775 helped spark the American Revolution. While not entirely historically accurate, the poem popularized the tale most Americans know today. Told from the perspective of an innkeeper, the poem recounts Revere's midnight ride as he warns colonists of approaching British soldiers. Written in 1860 when America was on the verge of Civil War, Longfellow intended for the poem to be a call to action, reminding supporters of the northern Union that history favors the courageous. As you read, consider the similarities between the urgency of Revere's ride and the problem of slavery, and take notes on how Longfellow's use of imagery

contributes to the mood and spirit of the piece.

- [1] Listen, my children, and you shall hear Of
the midnight ride of Paul Revere,
On the eighteenth of April, in Seventy-Five:¹
Hardly a man is now alive
- [5] Who remembers that famous day and year.
- He said to his friend, "If the British march
By land or sea from the town to-night,
Hang a lantern aloft in the belfry-arch²
Of the North-Church-tower,³ as a signal-light, —
- [10] One if by land, and two if by sea;
And I on the opposite shore will be,
Ready to ride and spread the alarm
Through every Middlesex⁴ village and farm,
For the country-folk to be up and to arm."⁵
- [15] Then he said "Good night!" and with muffled oar⁶
Silently rowed to the Charlestown⁷ shore,
Just as the moon rose over the bay,
Where swinging wide at her moorings⁸ lay The
Somerset,⁹ British man-of-war:

[20] A phantom ship, with each mast and spar¹⁰
Across the moon, like a prison-bar,
And a huge black hulk, that was magnified By
its own reflection in the tide.



["Boston - North End: Paul Revere"](#) by Wally Gobetz is licensed under CC BY-NC-ND 2.0.

1. referring to 1775
2. a bell tower
3. The North Church is the oldest standing church in Boston and is now considered a National Landmark.
4. Middlesex county in Massachusetts.
5. "To arms" means to ready their guns (arms) for battle.
6. a paddle used for rowing a boat
7. Charlestown is the oldest neighborhood in Boston, north of the Charles River.
8. The place where a boat or a ship is secured in water while it is not in use.

Meanwhile, his friend,¹¹ through alley and street

[25] Wanders and watches with eager
ears, Till in the silence around him
he hears

The muster of men at the barrack¹² door,
The sound of arms, and the tramp of
feet, And the measured tread¹³ of the
grenadiers¹⁴ [30] Marching down to their boats
on the shore.

Then he climbed to the tower of the church,
Up the wooden stairs, with stealthy
tread, To the belfry-chamber
overhead,

And startled the pigeons from their perch

[35] On the sombre¹⁵ rafters, that round him made
Masses and moving shapes of shade, —

By the trembling ladder, steep and tall,
To the highest window in the wall,

Where he paused to listen and look down

[40] A moment on the roofs of the
town, And the moonlight flowing
over all.

Beneath, in the churchyard, lay the dead,
In their night-encampment on the hill,
Wrapped in silence so deep and still

[45] That he could hear, like a sentinel's¹⁶ tread,
The watchful night-wind, as it went

Creeping along from tent to tent,
And seeming to whisper, "All is well!"
A moment only he feels the spell

- [50] Of the place and the hour, and the secret dread
Of the lonely belfry and the dead;
For suddenly all his thoughts are bent
On a shadowy something far away,
Where the river widens to meet the bay, —
[55] A line of black, that bends and floats
On the rising tide, like a bridge of boats.

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9. The HMS Somerset was a ship in the British Royal Navy.
 10. the rigging of a sailing ship
 11. an unnamed friend of Revere back in Boston
 12. a place where soldiers are housed
 13. **Tread (verb):** to walk or step
 14. Here, grenadier refers to the British soldiers.
 15. **Somber (adjective):** grave or serious in mood; gloomy
 16. a guard or watchman

Meanwhile, impatient to mount and
ride, Booted and spurred, with a
heavy stride, On the opposite shore
walked Paul Revere.

- [60] Now he patted his horse's side, Now
gazed on the landscape far and near,
Then impetuous¹ stamped the earth,
And turned and tightened his saddle-girth;²
But mostly he watched with eager search
[65] The belfry-tower of the old North Church,

¹ 7. **Impetuous (adjective):** acting quickly or thoughtlessly

² 8. A saddle-girth is a piece of equipment used to keep a horse's saddle in place.

As it rose above the graves on the
hill, Lonely and spectral³ and sombre
and still. And lo! as he looks, on the
belfry's height, A glimmer, and then a
gleam of light!

[70] He springs to the saddle, the bridle he
turns, But lingers and gazes, till full on
his sight A second lamp in the belfry
burns!

A hurry of hoofs in a village-street,

A shape in the moonlight, a bulk in the dark,

[75] And beneath from the pebbles, in passing, a spark
Struck out by a steed⁴ that flies fearless and fleet:⁵

That was all! And yet, through the gloom and the light,

The fate of a nation was riding that night;

And the spark struck out by that steed, in his flight,

[80] Kindled the land into flame with its heat.

He has left the village and mounted the steep,

And beneath him, tranquil⁶ and broad and deep,

Is the Mystic,⁷ meeting the ocean tides;

And under the alders,⁸ that skirt its edge,

[85] Now soft on the sand, now loud on the
ledge, Is heard the tramp of his steed as
he rides.

It was twelve by the village clock

When he crossed the bridge into Medford town.

He heard the crowing of the cock,

[90] And the barking of the farmer's
dog, And felt the damp of the

³ 9. **Spectral (adjective):** of or like a ghost; otherworldly

⁴ 0. a riding horse

⁵ 1. **Fleet (adjective):** fast and nimble in movement

⁶ 2. **Tranquil (adjective):** calm or peaceful

⁷ 3. the Mystic River in Massachusetts

⁸ 4. Alders refers to a type of deciduous tree.

river-fog, That rises when the
sun goes down.

It was one by the village clock,
When he galloped into
Lexington.

[95] He saw the gilded
weathercock⁹Swim in the
moonlight as he passed,
And the meeting-house windows, blank and bare,
Gaze at him with a spectral glare,
As if they already stood aghast¹⁰
[100] At the bloody work they would look upon.

It was two by the village clock,
When he came to the bridge in Concord town.
He heard the bleating¹¹ of the flock,
And the twitter of birds among the trees,
[105] And felt the breath of the morning breeze
Blowing over the meadows brown.
And one¹² was safe and asleep in his bed
Who at the bridge would be first to fall,
Who that day would be lying dead,
[110] Pierced by a British musket-ball.²⁹

You know the rest. In the books you have read,
How the British Regulars¹³ fired and fled,
— How the farmers gave them ball for ball,
From behind each fence and farmyard-wall,
[115] Chasing the red-coats down the lane,
Then crossing the fields to emerge

⁹ 5.a weathervane with a rooster on it

¹⁰ 6. **Aghast (adjective):** filled with horror or shock

¹¹ 7. Bleating is the sound made by a sheep, goat, or calf.

¹² . a reference to the man who would be the first to die in battle on the following day 29.

A musket-ball is a type of bullet.

¹³ 0. The British Regulars is another term for the British Red-coats, or the British soldiers fighting the American militia.

again Under the trees at the turn of
the road, And only pausing to fire
and load.

So through the night rode Paul Revere;

[120] And so through the night went his cry of alarm³¹

To every Middlesex village and farm,
— A cry of defiance,³² and not of fear,
A voice in the darkness, a knock at the
door, And a word that shall echo
forevermore!

[125] For, borne on the night-wind of the Past,

Through all our history, to the last,
In the hour of darkness and peril³³ and need,
The people will waken and listen to hear

The hurrying hoof-beats of that
steed, [130] And the midnight message of
Paul Revere.

"Paul Revere's Ride" by Henry Wadsworth Longfellow (1860) is
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31. This is a reference to the legend that Revere shouted "The British are coming!" throughout his midnight run as a warning to the militia. Contrary to popular belief, Revere did not actually shout these words, as the operation was planned to be as discreet as possible so as not to attract attention.
 32. **Defiance (noun):** open resistance or bold disobedience
 33. **Peril (noun):** serious and immediate danger

Text-Dependent Questions

Directions: For the following questions, choose the best answer and respond on your bubble sheet:

1. PART A: To whom is the narrator speaking in the poem, and how does this serve the author's purpose?
 - A. The narrator is speaking to children, telling them the story of Paul Revere, thus serving the author's purpose of teaching this historical lesson.
 - B. The narrator is speaking to children, telling them the story of Paul Revere, thus serving the author's purpose of instilling a sense of American pride and courage.
 - C. The narrator is speaking to a general audience, serving the author's purpose of bringing awareness to this historical event.
 - D. The narrator is speaking to the British soldiers, serving the author's purpose of criticizing Great Britain for its attempt to control the American colonists.

2. PART B: Which of the following stanzas best supports the answer to Part A?
 - A. Stanza 1
 - B. Stanza 2
 - C. Stanza 13
 - D. Stanza 14

3. PART A: What mood does the description of the Somerset ship evoke in lines 20-23?
 - A. Gloomy
 - B. Menacing
 - C. Awestruck
 - D. Sympathetic

4. PART B: Which of the following quotes best supports the answer to Part A?
 - A. "A phantom ship"
 - B. "Across the moon"
 - C. "a huge black hulk"
 - D. "magnified"

5. How do the behaviors of Paul Revere and his friend waiting for news differ?
- A. Revere is impatient for news, while his friend observes the tense silence of the night.
 - B. Both are impatient for news.
 - C. Both look to the cemetery to observe its stillness and solemn reminder of what is to come.
 - D. His friend is paralyzed by the tension while Revere is energized by it.
6. Which of the following statements best describes how the poem's form contributes to the overall tone?
- A. The poem uses mainly slant rhyme, keeping the tone light but not too melodic.
 - B. The poem uses alliteration, contributing to the speech-making tone.
 - C. The poem utilizes end rhyme to make it sound like a nursery song.
 - D. The poem utilizes end rhyme, giving it a lyric style, which contributes to the celebratory yet instructive tone.

PRO/CON: Should the U.S. scrap the recycling program?

By Tribune News Service, adapted by Newsela staff on 01.04.16

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Adonis Herring sorts cans and bottles at Capital Redemption Center on Sept. 22, 2015, in Albany, New York. The center offers refunds on empty beverage containers before they are transported to distributors and recycled. AP/Mike Groll

PRO: It costs too much and it really doesn't work

If you're worried about the planet, please make sure your garbage is buried in a landfill. There's plenty of space available.

On the surface, the phrase "reduce, reuse, recycle" may seem like a sensible call to action. It makes particular sense to those who want to limit the amount of carbon dioxide we release into the air when we burn fossil fuels like gas and coal, and reduce the amount of waste left behind for future generations.

The reality, however, is that the cost of the recycling process almost always outweighs the benefits.

Going By The Numbers

Even the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) says it only makes sense economically and environmentally to recycle about 35 percent of our trash. Among those materials are paper and aluminum cans, according to the government department.

Recycling 1 ton of paper or aluminum cans, the agency says, can save about 3 tons of carbon dioxide emissions over producing new materials. Carbon dioxide is produced during the recycling process and can lead to climate change. A ton equals 2,000 pounds.

But not so fast.

Paper mills pay for the trees they process. If it was cost-effective to recycle scrap paper, paper companies would be beating down your door to buy it — but they aren't.

That means it's more expensive and takes more energy and water to recycle old paper than to cut down and process pine trees and then plant pine seedlings.

Plastic provides another problem. Given the recent dramatic decline in oil prices, it is now cheaper to make a new plastic container than to recycle an old one.

Even if that were not true, the EPA says that recycling a ton of plastic saves only about a ton of carbon dioxide. However, that estimate doesn't take into account the water most consumers use to rinse their plastic containers before they put them into a recycling bin.

New York Times science writer John Tierney recently wrote an article, citing the work of author Chris Goodall. He wrote, "If you wash plastic in water that was heated by coal-derived electricity, then the net effect of your recycling could be more carbon in the atmosphere."

Emotion Over Reason

Glass is an even worse recyclable. To reduce emissions by 1 ton you have to recycle 3 tons of glass. If you include the cost of collecting glass in small quantities from neighborhoods, and the pollution produced by the collection trucks and the recycling process itself, glass recycling creates more emissions. It is also more expensive than making new glass, which comes primarily from sand, an abundant raw material.

No wonder many municipalities across the country continue to pick up glass in recycling trucks only to dump it at the local landfill.

Why the charade? Because "reduce, reuse, recycle" is an emotional slogan, not reasonable environmental policy. Years of brainwashing make most Americans blind to the actual evidence surrounding recycling programs.

By sending an extra fleet of trucks around town once a week, supporters of recycling actually are not protecting the environment.

It doesn't help that the rise of the recycling movement has created a powerful group of people who pressure politicians to keep things the way they are.

More intelligent environmental policies would consider the costs and benefits of recycling programs. They should scrap those that are wasteful and harmful to the environment.

If recycling was truly cost-effective, companies would be lined up at your doorstep to buy your trash and make money from it. Don't look now, because they're not there.

The true recycling test is whether someone is willing to pay you to sort and save your trash. If they're not, what you've been told about recycling in the past is probably just garbage.

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CON: Recycling stops us from being so wasteful

We Americans consume a lot and waste a lot, which means we dump far more trash than is necessary into landfills. In fact, we produce twice as much waste per person as Western Europe.

The amount of municipal solid waste produced annually in the United States has tripled since 1960, and in 2013, it totaled 254 million tons. That's 4.4 pounds per person every day.

We've made a lot of progress over the years in how we handle this waste. Recycling jumped dramatically nationwide after the mid-1980s. It leveled off around 2010, with the average American recycling or composting 34 percent of his waste.

The rate varies by the type of waste, and by state and city. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) reports that we recycle 99 percent of lead acid batteries, 67 percent of paper, and 55 percent of aluminum cans. Yet, we recycle only 40 percent of electronics such as cellphones and computers, only 34 percent of glass containers and just 30 percent of plastic bottles and jars.

Charging For Trash Encourages Recycling

We should be able to do much better than this. So why don't we? Individual habits are one explanation. Many people think recycling is not convenient, even in cities that send trucks house to house to collect recyclables. A number of states mandate recycling, but they don't enforce their laws, and in most cases they offer few incentives to recycle.

Some states and cities do much better because they take recycling seriously. Cities such as Seattle, Washington, charge fees when people throw out garbage to encourage recycling. These fees are

proportional to the amount of garbage put out for collection, a so-called pay-as-you-throw system. Even if the cost is small, it's an important incentive to encourage people to recycle, and they do.

Seattle had a 50 percent recycling rate in 2014, and a 71 percent rate for single-family households, and the rate continues to improve. The city has set a goal of eliminating the "maximum possible amount of waste." Few other cities are so ambitious.

Some critics see matters differently. They argue that recycling is too costly and ineffective to continue, and some states seem to agree with them. They have balked at paying part of the cost of municipal recycling, saying that cities should end their programs or pay for the cost themselves.

An Important Question

Is this the right action to take, that we should recycle only if it generates enough benefits? Doing that would send exactly the wrong message as cities and businesses across the nation try to build a new commitment to the sustainable use of resources.

Some experts believe that we should start by redesigning factories where possible to prevent or minimize waste in the first place. Then to the extent possible, we should reuse what is left over, and only then throw out anything that cannot be recycled.

No one argues that the cost of recycling is unimportant. But there are ways to deal with that cost rather than declare it over the top and abandon recycling programs. We could follow the lead of the most innovative cities by putting a price on trash. If people have to pay more, they will find ways to reduce the amount of trash they throw out, as will businesses, and the fees can cover the cost of recycling programs.

Think about what else such fees might do to reduce extra packaging and wasted food. We toss out about 40 percent of the food we buy. This is one reason why several large cities, including San Francisco, California, and Seattle, now require household composting.

We are in the early stages of an important sustainability transition that will focus on efficiency throughout a product's life cycle, reducing the environmental impact, and rethinking business and household consumption. That's the way to go.

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Text-Dependent Questions

Directions: For the following questions, choose the best answer and respond on your bubble sheet:

7. Which statement from the PRO author BEST conveys his purpose in the article?
- a If you're worried about the planet, please make sure your garbage is buried in a landfill. There's plenty of space available.
 - b Why the charade? Because "reduce, reuse, recycle" is an emotional slogan, not reasonable environmental policy. Years of brainwashing make most Americans blind to the actual evidence surrounding recycling programs.
 - c Even the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) says it only makes sense economically and environmentally to recycle about 35 percent of our trash. Among those materials are paper and aluminum cans, according to the government department.
 - d More intelligent environmental policies would consider the costs and benefits of recycling programs. They should scrap those that are wasteful and harmful to the environment.
8. In which excerpt does the CON author MOST directly address the argument of the PRO author?
- a We Americans consume a lot and waste a lot, which means we dump far more trash than is necessary into landfills. In fact, we produce twice as much waste per person as Western Europe.
 - b Some critics see matters differently. They argue that recycling is too costly and ineffective to continue, and some states seem to agree with them. They have balked at paying part of the cost of municipal recycling, saying that cities should end their programs or pay for the cost themselves.
 - c But there are ways to deal with that cost rather than declare it over the top and abandon recycling programs. We could follow the lead of the most innovative cities by putting a price on trash. If people have to pay more, they will find ways to reduce the amount of trash they throw out, as will businesses, and the fees can cover the cost of recycling programs.

- d We are in the early stages of an important sustainability transition that will focus on efficiency throughout a product's life cycle, reducing the environmental impact, and rethinking business and household consumption. That's the way to go.

9. Which statement accurately compares the reasoning of the PRO and CON authors?

- a The PRO author focuses on the financial impact of recycling, while the CON author focuses on its environmental impact.
- b The PRO author focuses on the social influences on recycling, while the CON author focuses on the economic influences on it.
- c The PRO author focuses on the intersection of recycling and business, while the CON author focuses on recycling among individuals.
- d The PRO author focuses on the financial burdens of recycling, while the CON author focuses on the legal burdens of recycling.

10. Read the sentence from the PRO article.

The true recycling test is whether someone is willing to pay you to sort and save your trash.

The PRO author uses this statement to support which claim?

- A. Recycling is not does not make sense economically.
- B. People are using inaccurate methods to test recycling programs.
- C. The government should help pay for recycling programs.
- D. Reducing and reusing are less expensive than recycling.