



## **Social Studies Exemplary Text Student Handout**

Listen, my children, and you shall hear  
Of the midnight ride of Paul Revere,  
On the eighteenth of April, in Seventy-five;  
Hardly a man is now alive  
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 arch  
Of the North Church tower as a signal light,—  
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 Middlesex village and farm,  
For the country-folk to be up and to arm."

Then he said, "Good night!" and with muffled oar  
Silently rowed to the Charlestown shore,  
Just as the moon rose over the bay,  
Where swinging wide at her moorings lay  
The Somerset, British man-of-war;  
A phantom ship, with each mast and spar  
Across the moon like a prison bar,  
And a huge black hulk, that was magnified  
By its own reflection in the tide.  
Meanwhile, his friend, through alley and street,  
Wanders and watches with eager ears,  
Till in the silence around him he hears  
The muster of men at the barrack door,  
The sound of arms, and the tramp of feet,  
And the measured tread of the grenadiers,  
Marching down to their boats on the shore.  
Then he climbed to the tower of the church,  
Up the wooden stairs, with stealthy tread,

This is an example of exemplary text found in *Common Core Standards for English Language Arts & Literacy in History/Social Studies, Science, and Technical Subjects: Appendix B Text Exemplars and Sample Performance Tasks*. Retrieved from [http://www.corestandards.org/assets/Appendix\\_B.pdf](http://www.corestandards.org/assets/Appendix_B.pdf)

To the belfry-chamber overhead,  
And startled the pigeons from their perch  
On the sombre rafters, that round him made  
Masses and moving shapes of shade,—  
Up the trembling ladder, steep and tall,  
To the highest window in the wall,  
Where he paused to listen and look down  
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  
That he could hear, like a sentinel's 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  
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,—  
A line of black that bends and floats  
On the rising tide, like a bridge of boats.

Meanwhile, impatient to mount and ride,  
Booted and spurred, with a heavy stride  
On the opposite shore walked Paul Revere.  
Now he patted his horse's side,  
Now gazed at the landscape far and near,  
Then, impetuous, stamped the earth,  
And turned and tightened his saddle-girth;  
But mostly he watched with eager search  
The belfry-tower of the Old North Church,  
As it rose above the graves on the hill,  
Lonely and spectral and sombre and still.  
And lo! as he looks, on the belfry's height

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A glimmer, and then a gleam of light!  
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,  
And beneath, from the pebbles, in passing, a spark  
Struck out by a steed flying fearless and fleet;  
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,  
Kindled the land into flame with its heat.

He has left the village and mounted the steep,  
And beneath him, tranquil and broad and deep,  
Is the Mystic, meeting the ocean tides;  
And under the alders, that skirt its edge,  
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,  
And the barking of the farmer's dog,  
And felt the damp of the river fog,  
That rises after the sun goes down.

It was one by the village clock,  
When he galloped into Lexington.  
He saw the gilded weathercock  
Swim 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 aghast  
At the bloody work they would look upon.

It was two by the village clock,  
When he came to the bridge in Concord town.

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He heard the bleating of the flock,  
And the twitter of birds among the trees,  
And felt the breath of the morning breeze  
Blowing over the meadows brown.  
And one was safe and asleep in his bed  
Who at the bridge would be first to fall,  
Who that day would be lying dead,  
Pierced by a British musket-ball.

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

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

So through the night rode Paul Revere;  
And so through the night went his cry of alarm  
To every Middlesex village and farm,—  
A cry of defiance and not of fear,  
A voice in the darkness, a knock at the door,  
And a word that shall echo forevermore!  
For, borne on the night-wind of the Past,  
Through all our history, to the last,  
In the hour of darkness and peril and need,  
The people will waken and listen to hear  
The hurrying hoof-beats of that steed,  
And the midnight message of Paul Revere.

Longfellow, H. W. (1861) *Paul Revere's Ride*.

*The Midnight Ride*. Retrieved from <http://www.paulreverehouse.org/ride/>

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## Social Studies Exemplary Text Teacher Resource

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Up the wooden stairs, with stealthy tread,  
To the belfry-chamber overhead,  
And startled the pigeons from their perch  
On the **sombre** rafters, that round him made  
Masses and moving shapes of shade,—  
Up the trembling ladder, steep and tall,  
To the highest window in the wall,  
Where he paused to listen and look down  
A moment on the roofs of the town,  
And the moonlight flowing over all.

Beneath, in the churchyard, lay the dead,

*Teacher introduces the text with minimal commentary and students read it independently. Teacher then reads passage aloud. Give a brief definition to words students would likely not be able to define from context (underlined in text). Teacher guides the students through a series of text-dependent questions. Complete the performance task as a cumulative evaluation of the close-reading.*

### Text-Dependent Questions

1. What day and month did Paul Revere make his ride?
2. What is the significance of the phrase "one, if by land, and two, if by sea" in the poem?
3. What is the name of the British "man-of-war" that is in the bay?
4. How many lights does Paul Revere see in the belfry tower?
5. What are the two towns the text names that Revere gave his message to?
6. What significance would you attribute to the line "the fate of a nation was riding that night?"
7. Is it clear from the text what Paul Revere's ride set the stage for?
8. Cite lines in the text that indicate the historical importance Longfellow attributes to Revere's ride.
9. Identify the personal qualities with which Longfellow instills Revere and the Patriots at Lexington.
10. What is Longfellow's attitude about the event?

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Now soft on the sand, now loud on the ledge,  
Is heard the tramp of his steed as he rides.  
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11. What is the task that Paul Revere must complete? Is it a quick, easy ride? Does Revere cover a great distance? Do students sense any urgency?
12. Although Longfellow does not make particular mention that Revere volunteered to make the fateful ride, cite evidence that he was a willing participant.
13. Does the American Revolution inspire you? Can you relate to the determination and passion of that moment in America's history? Find and quote particular text that communicates the theme of America's vision. [lines 3-5, 77-78, 111-112, 126]
14. What role does the quiet natural moments play in the poem? Do you think the description of rivers, bays, the moon, and trees gets in the way of the action? Find and quote particular text that communicates the theme of man and the natural world. [lines 10, 17, 54, 82-83, 105-106]
15. This poem isn't focused on violence and war, but images of battle and struggle and fighting are everywhere. Would you describe this poem about war? If not, what do you think is the most important theme?
16. Do you feel like you're looking deep into the past when you read this poem or does Revere's ride feel fresh and exciting and present? Give some quotes from the text that focus on the theme of memory and the past. [lines 1-2, 3-5, 111, 124, 125-126]

### Performance Tasks for Literary Texts

Students compare and contrast the effect Henry Wadsworth Longfellow's poem *Paul Revere's Ride* has on them to the effect they experience from a multimedia dramatization of the event presented in an interactive digital map (<http://www.paulreverehouse.org/ride>), analyzing the impact of different techniques employed that are unique to each medium. [RL.6.7]

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When he came to the bridge in Concord town.  
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**EFL 4**

**Word Count 978**

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