



HALLOWEEN

 Activities



“Haunted Houses” by Henry Wadsworth Longfellow

All houses wherein men have lived and died
Are haunted houses. Through the open doors
The harmless phantoms on their errands glide,
With feet that make no sound upon the floors.

We meet them at the door-way, on the stair,
Along the passages they come and go,
Impalpable impressions on the air,
A sense of something moving to and fro.

There are more guests at table than the hosts
Invited; the illuminated hall
Is thronged with quiet, inoffensive ghosts,
As silent as the pictures on the wall.

The stranger at my fireside cannot see
The forms I see, nor hear the sounds I hear;
He but perceives what is; while unto me
All that has been is visible and clear.

We have no title-deeds to house or lands;
Owners and occupants of earlier dates
From graves forgotten stretch their dusty hands,
And hold in mortmain still their old estates.

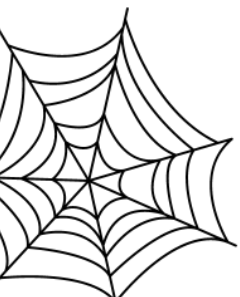
The spirit-world around this world of sense
Floats like an atmosphere, and everywhere
Wafts through these earthly mists and vapours dense
A vital breath of more ethereal air.

Our little lives are kept in equipoise
By opposite attractions and desires;
The struggle of the instinct that enjoys,
And the more noble instinct that aspires.

These perturbations, this perpetual jar
Of earthly wants and aspirations high,
Come from the influence of an unseen star
An undiscovered planet in our sky.

And as the moon from some dark gate of cloud
Throws o’er the sea a floating bridge of light,
Across whose trembling planks our fancies crowd
Into the realm of mystery and night,—

So from the world of spirits there descends
A bridge of light, connecting it with this,
O’er whose unsteady floor, that sways and bends,
Wander our thoughts above the dark abyss.



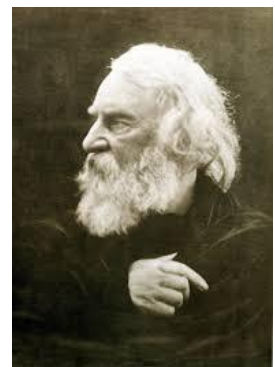


The poet explores the idea that every house carries the memories of those who once lived there, much like how ghosts haunt a place. He suggests that homes are not just physical structures but are filled with the emotions, joys, and sorrows of past inhabitants. The poem is about the passage of time and the inevitable fading of human presence, but it also emphasizes the fact that the spiritual essence of those who lived there remains. What is your opinion on that? Express your feelings in a paragraph justifying your ideas.



Read the text about Longfellow and decide if the sentences that follow are True or False:

Henry Wadsworth Longfellow (1807-1882) was one of the most celebrated American poets of the 19th century. Born in Portland, Maine, he attended Bowdoin College and later studied in Europe, which greatly influenced his writing style. Longfellow was fluent in several languages, allowing him to translate foreign works, including Dante's *Divine Comedy*, into English. His career as a poet began while he was a professor at Harvard University. Longfellow's poetry often focused on themes of nature, love, and American history. His best-known works include *The Song of Hiawatha*, *Paul Revere's Ride*, and *Evangeline*. These poems reflect his admiration for the American landscape and his interest in folklore and national identity. Longfellow's style is characterized by its clarity, rhythm, and accessibility, which helped make his work popular both in America and abroad. Although some critics considered his verse overly sentimental, his ability to capture universal themes gave him enduring appeal. Longfellow was also known for his personal warmth and literary generosity, fostering American poetry during a time when the nation was seeking its own cultural identity.



- 1 Longfellow was born in Portland, Maine.
- 2 He spent his entire career as a professor at Bowdoin College.
- 3 Longfellow translated *The Divine Comedy* into English.
- 4 His poetry focused mainly on love, nature, and American history.
- 5 *Paul Revere's Ride* and *Evangeline* are two of his most famous works.
- 6 Longfellow's writing style was often criticized for being too difficult to understand.
- 7 Longfellow was known for his personal warmth and generosity toward other writers.
- 8 He only wrote about American themes and never showed interest in foreign literature.
- 9 *The Song of Hiawatha* reflects Longfellow's admiration for Native American folklore.
- 10 Despite his popularity, Longfellow was not widely read outside of the United States.



Do you like reading poetry? Why/why not? What is special about poems in comparison to other works of literature in your opinion?



“Haunted Houses” by Longfellow Teacher’s C1-C2

Answers to Longfellow’s biography

- 1 True
- 2 False
- 3 True
- 4 True
- 5 True
- 6 False
- 7 True
- 8 False
- 9 True
- 10 False



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