

Integration of Longfellow's Poetry into American Studies

Lesson Plan

A resource developed through the *Longfellow and the Forging of American Identity* program

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Suggested Grade Level: 9-12

Subject Area: American literature and U.S. History

Learning Results:

English Language Arts:

B. Literature and culture

C. Language and images

H. Research-related writing and speaking

Social Studies:

History:

A. Chronology

B. Historical Knowledge, Concepts and Patterns

C. Historical inquiry, analysis, and interpretation

Time Required:

40-80 minutes for each lesson

Learning Objectives:

Students and teachers will examine Longfellow's ability to express universality of human emotions/experiences as well as looking at the patterns he articulates in history that are applicable well beyond his era. With each poem, students will explore a common set of central guiding questions.

Materials and Resources Required:

(All of the following documents are available to download in .pdf format from the lesson plan page at www.mainememory.net):

- Outline of poems included with this lesson, with contextual notes for use with the curriculum
- Guiding Questions (this set of questions is also included in each lesson plan packet)

The following documents are included in each of the lesson plan packets below. These lesson plan packets can be found on the lesson plan page at www.mainememory.net:

- Text of the poem
- Related images
- Enrichment links
- Guiding Questions

Lesson plans packets:

1. *The Song of Hiawatha* – Section IX
2. “Hawthorne”
3. “Paul Revere’s Ride”
4. “The Warning”
5. “Psalm of Life”
6. “The Village Blacksmith”
7. “Cross of Snow”
8. “The Jewish Cemetery at Newport”
9. “The Children’s Hour”

Overview:

We explored Longfellow’s ability to express universality of human emotions/experiences while also looking at the patterns he articulated in history that are applicable well beyond his era. We attempted to link a number of Longfellow’s poems with different eras in U.S. History and accompanying literature, so that the poems complemented the various units. With each poem, we want to explore the question: what is American identity?