Field Trip: Longfellow Poetry Workshop

**Longfellow House-Washington’s Headquarters National Historic Site**, 105 Brattle St., Cambridge MA

March 13-May 3, 2023, Tuesdays & Wednesdays, 10:00-11:45 AM

3rd-5th grade classes, limit 24 students per group (at least 1 chaperone per 8 students)

# Summary

As a writer, famous poet Henry Longfellow took inspiration from many things – his children, people who lived in the house before him, his community, and his travels. During this creative 1 hour and 45 minute program, 3rd-5th grade students will explore literary history and use poetry as a tool to express their experiences and inspirations.

## Goals

* All students will feel welcome, respected, and appreciated;
* All students will know how to return to the site with their families;
* Students will reflect on artistic inspiration in the life of famed poet Henry Longfellow, and in their own lives;
* Students will work collaboratively to write and perform original poems integrating rhyming and descriptive techniques.

## ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS AND LITERACY Massachusetts Curriculum Framework

W.3/4/5.3 Write narratives in prose or poem form to develop experiences or events using effective literary techniques, descriptive details, and clear sequences.

SL.3/4/5.1 Engage effectively in a range of collaborative discussions (one-on-one, in groups, and teacher-led) with diverse partners on grade 3/4/5 topics and texts, building on others’ ideas and expressing their own clearly.

SL.3.2. Determine the main ideas and supporting details of a text read aloud or information presented in diverse media and formats, including visually, quantitatively, and orally.

SL.4.2 Paraphrase portions of a written text read aloud or information presented in diverse media and formats, including visually, quantitatively, and orally.

SL.5.2 Summarize a written text read aloud or information presented in diverse media and formats, including visually, quantitatively, and orally.

# Itinerary

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| 10:00 AM | Arrive at Longfellow House-Washington’s Headquarters National Historic Site. Place bags/lunches in bins for storage inside the Visitor Center. Restrooms available as needed | Visitor Center |
| 10:10 AM | Meet the park rangers, welcome and overview. Program introduction: students reflect on favorite poems/poets, and times when they’ve been creatively inspired. | Laundry yard (outside) or Carriage House (inside) |
| 10:25 AM | Small group poem analysis: “The Village Blacksmith” and “To a Child.” What do you think might have inspired this poem? What questions do you have? Large group share-out. | Laundry yard (outside) or Carriage House (inside) |
| 10:45 | Split into two groups. Group A visits the Library. Group B visits the Study. Students conduct a sensory observation of the rooms, then analyze another poem as a group: “Travels by the Fireside” (Library) or “The Children’s House” (Study). | Inside the Longfellow House |
| 11:10 | Poetry writing exercise. Students break into small groups to compose a short poem based on something that inspires them, using a particular rhyme scheme. Students share poems with large group; group guesses their inspiration. | Laundry yard (outside) or Carriage House (inside) |
| 11:40 | Goodbyes, collect belongings from Visitor Center bins. *Note: Classes are welcome to stay to each lunch on the lawn.* | Visitor Center |

# Reference Materials

[Video: Longfellow at Home and In Print (4:36)](https://www.nps.gov/media/video/view.htm?id=AE17128F-0969-4789-98CC-BC3526E05FD6) - an introduction to the intersections of his home, family, and literary career

[Longfellow: The Village Blacksmith](https://www.hwlongfellow.org/poems_poem.php?pid=38)

[Longfellow: To A Child](https://www.hwlongfellow.org/poems_poem.php?pid=105)

[Longfellow: Travels by the Fireside](https://www.hwlongfellow.org/poems_poem.php?pid=229)

[Longfellow: The Children's Hour](https://www.hwlongfellow.org/poems_poem.php?pid=44)