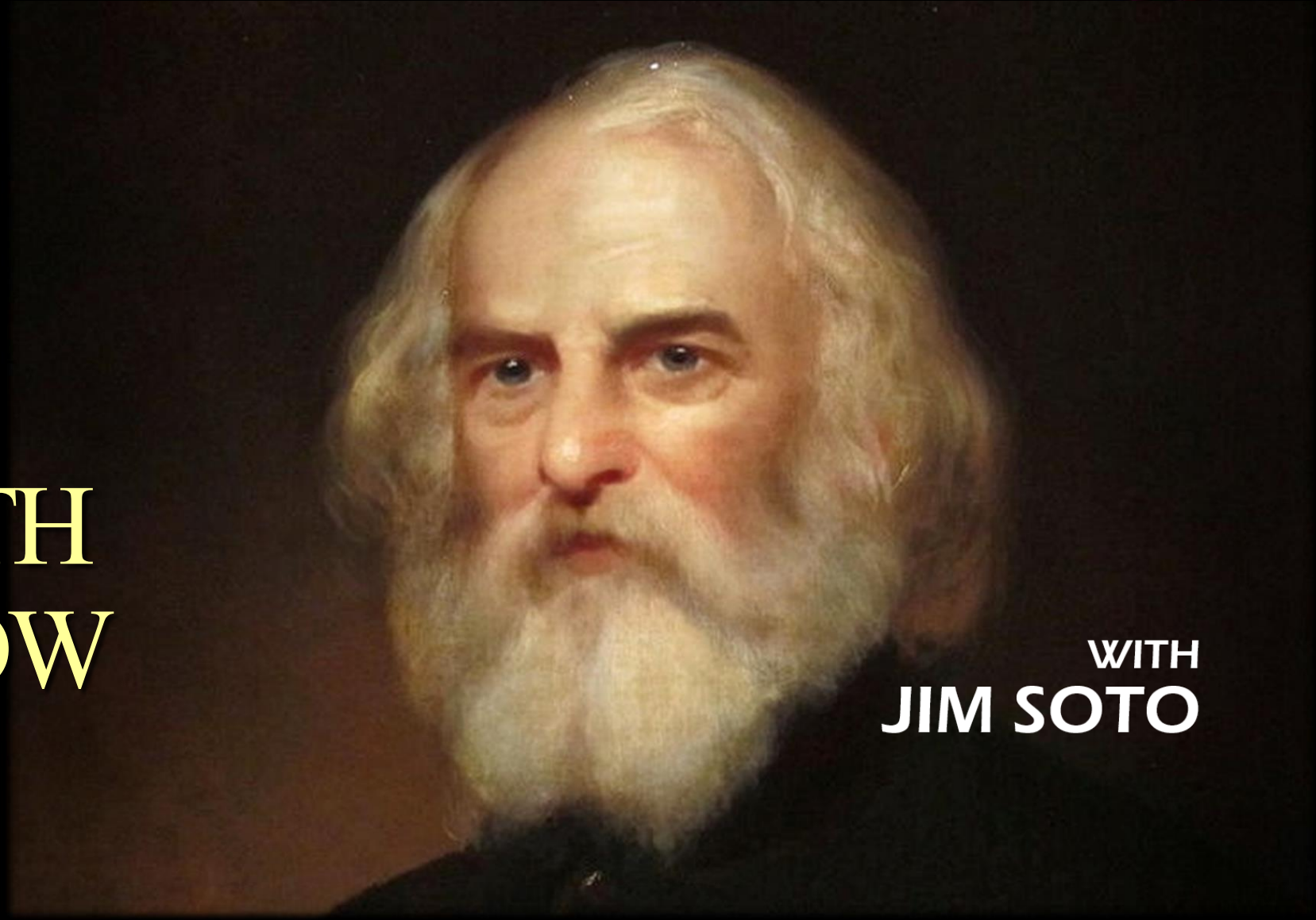


UNIT 2 Expressing a National Spirit
American Renaissance 1800 to 1850

A STEIN WOOD
FROEBEL
BILINGUAL SCHOOL
Home of the Space Generation



Author Focus:
HENRY
WADSWORTH
LONGFELLOW



WITH
JIM SOTO

SPEAK YOUR MIND

The sea is used frequently as a symbol, or representation of certain realities in life.

Do you believe it's a symbol of nature's permanence?

Do you believe it's a symbol of nature's vastness?

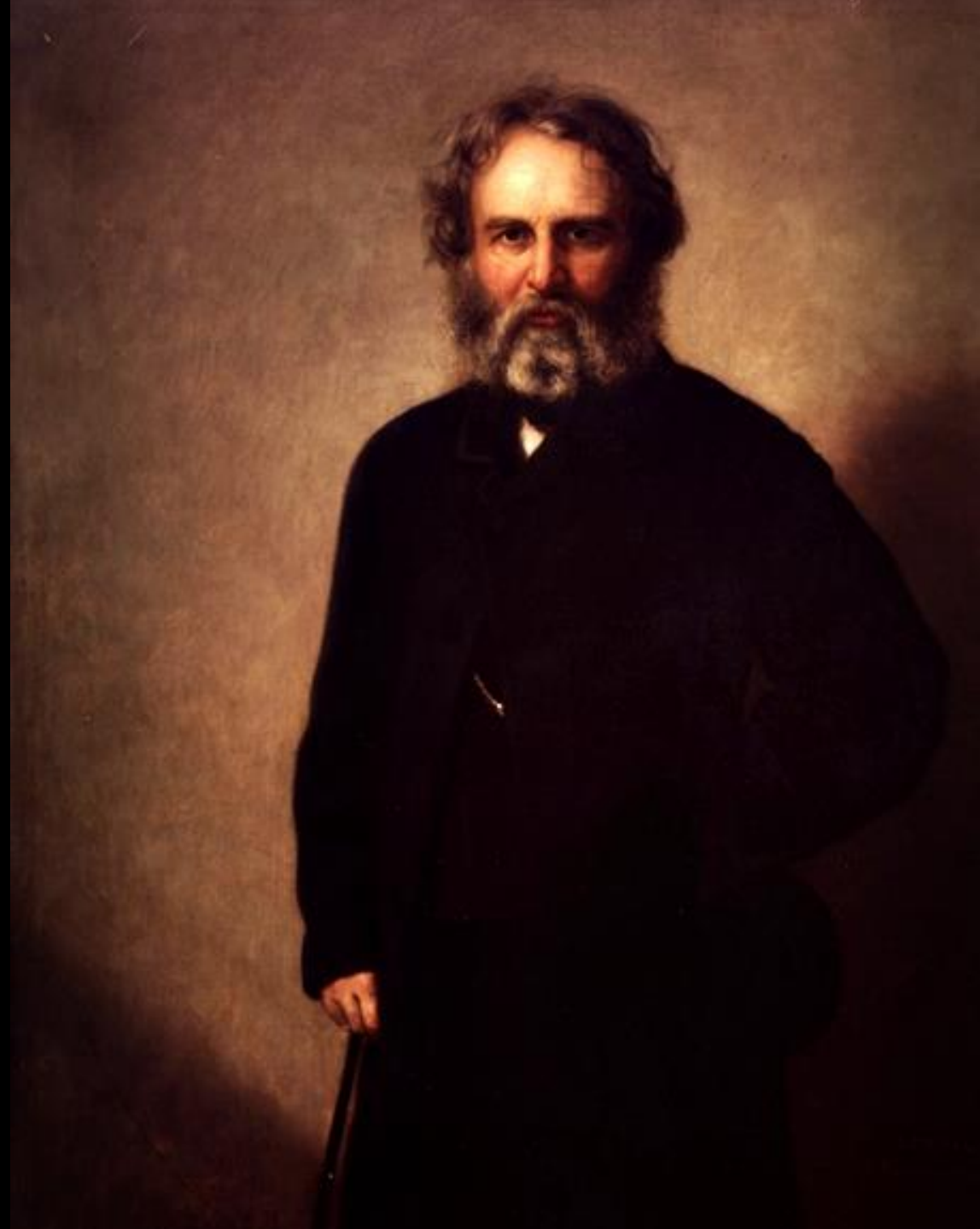
Or, do you believe it's a symbol of nature's indifference towards human beings?

Take a minute to consider and answer the question.



POPULAR IN HIS TIME

Henry Wadsworth Longfellow taught foreign languages at Bowdoin and then at Harvard. His most famous poems were retellings of stories from history or legend. These poems were generally romantic, didactic, and occasionally gripping and greatly appealing to readers' tastes of the day. The two best loved of Longfellow's works are "Song of Hiawatha," a poem about a 16th century leader of the Iroquois Confederation, and "Paul Revere's Ride," a dramatic narrative poem that brought to life, for many readers, the first shot in the American revolution.



LITERARY WORKS

Longfellow was a Harvard scholar versed in several European languages. He was heavily influenced by Romanticism and made a name as a poet and novelist with works like “Hyperion”, “Evangeline”, “Poems on Slavery” and “The Song of Hiawatha”.

Much of Longfellow's work was **lyric poetry**, but he experimented with many forms, including free verse. Today, you'll be reading two of his poems: “The Tide Rises, the Tide Falls” and “A Psalm of Life”.



THE TIDE RISES, THE TIDE FALLS

This poem is characterized by the repetition of the title within the poem itself. As you read the poem, consider whether the traveler refers to a particular person or is a symbol of people in general. Do the events in the poem take place from evening to the next morning, or should the action be read as occurring over a longer span of time? What might have happened to the traveler?



A PSALM OF LIFE

This poem is a **psalm**, which is a sacred song or hymn used in worship. In "A Psalm of Life," Longfellow offers advice for living well on Earth but also recognizes that there is an afterlife. Several lines from this poem have become **aphorisms**, short sayings that make poignant observations about life. For instance, the line "*Art is long, and Time is fleeting*" often is used to describe the ability of art, including literature, to speak to generations of people.



A TYPE OF POETRY



Lyric Poems

The two poems you are about to read are lyric poems. A lyric poem is a short, highly musical verse that conveys powerful feelings. The poet may use rhyme, meter, or other devices to create a song-like quality. In other words, a lyric poem is a private expression of emotion by an individual speaker. Song lyrics often begin as lyric poems. In ancient Greece, lyric poetry was combined with music and played on a lyre. Through words and music, great lyric poets like Sappho poured out feelings of love and yearning.

LITERARY ELEMENTS

Mood

or atmosphere, is the emotion created in the reader by a literary work. Mood is expressed by word choice, details, repetition, and symbols.

Personification

is a type of figurative language in which an animal, force of nature, or idea is described as if it were human.



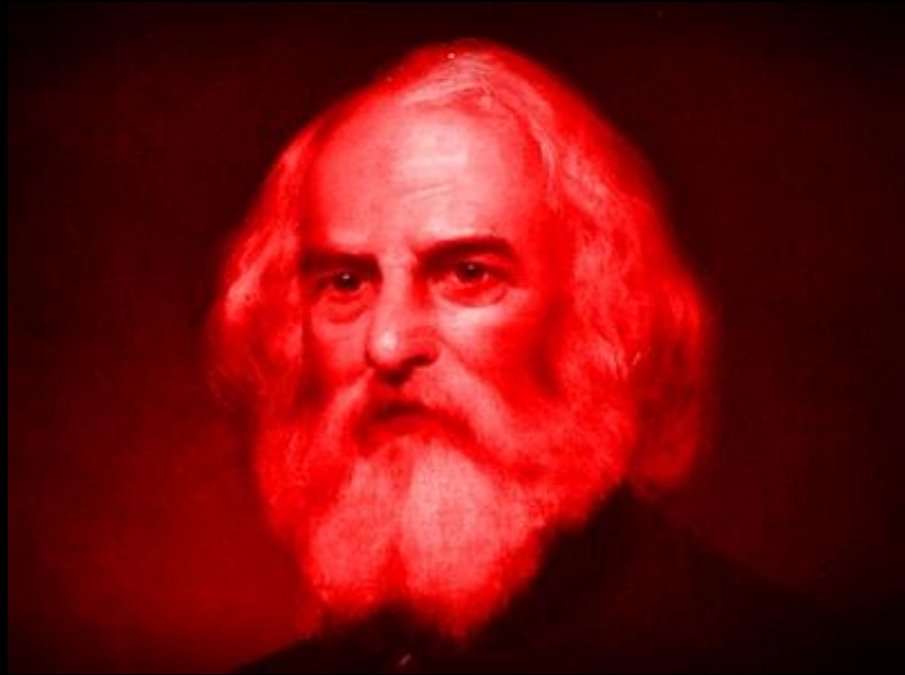


Longfellow wrote "A Psalm of Life" in 1838, when he was just 31 years old, and he wrote "The Tide Rises, the Tide Falls" in 1879, just a few years before he died. As you read these two poems, think about how the passage of forty-some years may have altered Longfellow's perspective on life. Determine the primary mood each poem conveys. Also look for examples of personification.

ASSESSMENT

After reading pages 96-100 in your book, complete the activities:

1. REFER TO TEXT &
2. REASON WITH TEXT
3. & ANALYZE LITERATURE
 - **Mood and Personification** - What is the primary mood, or emotional element, of each poem? How does Longfellow create this emotional response in the reader? Give details to support your response.
 - In lines 8–9 of “The Tide Rises, the Tide Falls,” the waves are said to have “soft, white hands” that wash over footprints in the sand. What is the personification, and what is its effect?



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