CLASSICS LIBRARY · STORY MAP

Paul Revere's Ride

Henry Wadsworth Longfellow · *1861 · English original, as hosted*

Listen, my children, and you shall hear of the midnight ride of Paul Revere, on the eighteenth of April, in Seventy-five. So this complete narrative ballad begins. Later the signal is named: One, if by land, and two, if by sea. Henry Wadsworth Longfellow, complete as hosted. For grades 3–8, and upward, often memorized. A midnight ride, not a battle spectacle. Quote this wording, including "to-night" if you quote that line, as this file prints it.

THE CENTRAL QUESTION

How should a school read this file as Longfellow's complete narrative ballad of a midnight ride and a two-lantern signal, rather than as a later textbook paraphrase only?

"Listen, my children, and you shall hear Of the"
Opening

Henry Wadsworth Longfellow's Paul Revere's Ride, complete as hosted. It opens: Listen, my children, and you shall hear of the midnight ride of Paul Revere, on the eighteenth of April, in Seventy-five. The signal: One, if by land, and two, if by sea. For grades 3–8, and upward, often memorized. A midnight ride, not a battle spectacle. Quote this wording.

KEY CHARACTERS

Paul Revere
Whose midnight ride the children are asked to hear, on the eighteenth of April, in Seventy-five

The friend who hangs the lanterns
To whom Revere says, One, if by land, and two, if by sea

Henry Wadsworth Longfellow
The author of this complete narrative ballad

HOW TO BEGIN PAUL REVERE'S RIDE

> *"Listen, my children, and you shall hear Of the"*
> Opening

> *"One, if by land, and two, if by sea; And I on the"*
> The signal

Grades 4–8
Read the full text free at classicslaunch.org.

01

Listen, My Children, and You Shall Hear

OPENING

Listen, my children, and you shall hear. The ballad begins as a hearing, promised to children.

- Keep "Listen, my children."
- 3–8, often memorized.
- A complete short ballad.
- Quote this wording.

> *"Listen, my children, and you shall hear Of the"*
> Opening

02

The Midnight Ride of Paul Revere

OPENING

Of the midnight ride of Paul Revere. The ride is named at once, before the lanterns.

- Keep "midnight ride of Paul Revere."
- 3–8.
- The opening, not a later film only.
- Quote this wording.

> *"Of the midnight ride of Paul Revere, On the"*
> Opening

03

The Eighteenth of April, in Seventy-five

OPENING

On the eighteenth of April, in Seventy-five. The date is spoken as the ballad speaks it.

- Keep "eighteenth of April, in Seventy-five."
- 3–8.
- A date, not a battle scene.
- Quote this wording.

> *"On the eighteenth of April, in Seventy-five"*
> Opening

04

One, if by Land, and Two, if by Sea

THE SIGNAL

One, if by land, and two, if by sea. The signal is a counting, from a church tower, not a spectacle of fighting.

- Keep the commas, and "if by land," "if by sea."
- 3–8, often memorized.
- A signal, not a battle.
- Quote this wording.

> *"One, if by land, and two, if by sea; And I on the"*
> The signal

05

Longfellow, Complete as Hosted

THE EDITION

Henry Wadsworth Longfellow, Paul Revere's Ride, complete as hosted. For grades 3–8, and upward, often memorized. A midnight ride, not a battle spectacle. Quote this wording, including "to-night" if you quote that line. One short complete ballad; do not invent what the file does not say.

- Name Longfellow, and this complete ballad.
- 3–8, often memorized.
- A hearing, a date, and a two-lantern signal.
- Quote this English.

> *"Listen, my children, and you shall hear Of the"*
> Opening

A hearing, promised to children

A midnight ride, named

A date spoken as Seventy-five

A signal, one or two

A ride, not a battle spectacle

What to watch for as you read

GRADES 4–8

1. It opens: "Listen, my children, and you shall hear of the midnight ride of Paul Revere, on the eighteenth of April, in Seventy-five."
2. The signal: "One, if by land, and two, if by sea."
3. Henry Wadsworth Longfellow, complete as hosted. For grades 3–8, and upward, often memorized.
4. A midnight ride, not a battle spectacle. Quote this wording, including "to-night" if you quote that line.

Quotations are verbatim from the English original, as hosted, Project Gutenberg #25153: Tales of a Wayside Inn (Boston: Ticknor and Fields, 1863), "The Landlord's Tale", the public-domain text hosted at classicslaunch.org/works/paul-reveres-ride/. Citations give book and chapter (or canto and line) so every line can be checked.