

Name:

Period:

**"Paul Revere's Ride" - Henry Wadsworth Longfellow
Comprehension Questions and Extended Response**

Directions: Use the slides and notes from today's presentations to help you establish context for the poem. Then, use that information to help guide you to a better understanding of the rhetorical situation and strategies.

Slide 1: Thoughtstarter

<p>Notes:</p>	<p>Questions and Responses: Why might people write poetry? What power is afforded to poets and their words that may not exist in regular prose?</p>
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Slide 2: Who is Henry Wadsworth Longfellow?

<p>Notes:</p>

Slide 3: Paul Revere's Ride - Background

<p>Notes:</p>	<p>Questions and Responses: What is going on politically during this time? How might that influence the message?</p>
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Slide 4: Paul Revere's Ride - Background

<p>Notes:</p>	<p>Questions and Responses: Is this the "speaker"? Consider whose voice is actually heard Why might Longfellow choose this method to convey his point?</p> <p>What language is used here? What are the communication limitations in 1770?</p>
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Slide 5: Paul Revere's Ride - Background

<p>Notes:</p>	<p>Questions and Responses:</p> <p>How is Revere able to use language to spur a revolution?</p> <p>Is it okay to sensationalize an event or idea and call it "poetic license"? How is this different than fabricating data or "truth"?</p> <p>What is Longfellow trying to "do" to Paul Revere? Does it work? How does this action appeal to ethos and pathos for his current (1860) cause?</p>
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Slide 6: Inaccuracies

<p>Notes:</p>	<p>Questions and Responses:</p> <p>Why? why don't we know about prescott, Dawes, or any of the militiamen?</p> <p>How is this situation likened to other historical events, where one person takes the spotlight, representing groups of others?</p>
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Slide 7: So What?

Notes:	Questions and Responses: What power does Longfellow have? Should he have this power? Why is it problematic that history books use this poem as historical evidence?
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Final Thoughts

How might the use of a familiar event, like Paul Revere's ride (remember, it only happened <100 years prior) help appeal to Wadsworth's audience? What rhetorical appeal is he using?

What feelings from Revere's ride could be connected to Longfellow's current cause? How is this reflected in the text? (what words are used/images created?)

Should Longfellow be able to fabricate this event?

How can language, or more specifically, poetry, lead to freedom?