

Reading Comprehension Tests: Poetry

Directions: Read the poem and the questions carefully. Fill in the correct answer circles.

The Midnight Ride of Paul Revere

by

Henry Wadsworth Longfellow

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| 1 Listen my children and you shall hear | 15 Then he said "Good-night!" and with muffled oar |
| 2 Of the midnight ride of Paul Revere, | 16 Silently rowed to the Charleston shore |
| 3 On the eighteenth of April, in Seventy-five; | 17 Just as the moon rose over the bay, |
| 4 Hardly a man is now alive | 18 Where swinging wide at her moorings lay |
| 5 Who remembers that famous day and year. | 19 The Somerset, British man-of-war; |
| 6 He said to his friend, "If the British march | 20 A phantom ship, with each mast and spar |
| 7 By land or sea from town to-night, | 21 Across the moon like a prison bar, |
| 8 Hang a lantern aloft in the belfry arch | 22 And a huge black hulk, that was magnified |
| 9 Of the North Church tower as a signal light,— | 23 By its own reflection in the tide |
| 10 One if by land, and two if by sea; | 24 Meanwhile, his friend through alley and street |
| 11 And I on the opposite shore will be, | 25 Wanders and watches, with eager ears, |
| 12 Ready to ride and spread alarm | 26 Till in silence around him hears |
| 13 Through every Middlesex village and farm, | 27 The muster of men at the barrack door, |
| 14 For the country folk to be up and to arm." | 28 The sound of arms, and the tramp of feet, |
| | 29 And the measured tread of the grenadiers, |
| | 30 Marching down to their boats on the shore. |

- Which lines in the poem tell us that the poet did not live in the same time as the subject of the poem?
 (A) lines 24 and 25
 (B) lines 6 and 7
 (C) lines 4 and 5
 (D) lines 11 and 12
- What is Paul Revere riding on?
 (E) a bike
 (F) a horse
 (G) a carriage
 (H) none of these
- What is Paul Revere warning people of?
 (A) bad weather
 (B) a battle
 (C) the invasion of the British
 (D) a phantom ship
- If the British attack from sea, how many lanterns will be hung in the North Church?
 (E) two
 (F) one
 (G) three
 (H) none
- Where will Paul Revere wait for the signal?
 (A) in the belfry of the North Church
 (B) Middlesex
 (C) on the opposite shore
 (D) in the barracks
- How do you think Longfellow feels about Revere?
 (E) He thinks he is foolish.
 (F) He thinks he is reckless.
 (G) He admires him.
 (H) He is frightened by him

