

“Paul Revere’s Ride”

This example depicts STRESSED and unstressed syllables from the last stanza of “Paul Revere’s Ride” by Henry Wadsworth Longfellow. How does the rhythm contribute to the overall effect of the poem?

In the HOUR of DARKness and PERil and NEED,

The PEOple will WAKen and LISTen to HEAR

The HURrying HOOF-beats of that STEED,

And the MIDnight MESsage of PAUL REVERE.

*This excerpt was borrowed from <http://www.eserver.org/poetry/paul-revere.html>.

Poetry Terms

Stanza – poetry lines combined into groups

Rhythm – the pattern of stressed and unstressed syllables in a line of poetry

Rhyme – words that end with the same sound

Imagery – words or phrases that appeal to the five senses

Figurative language – words or phrases that help the reader picture ordinary things in new ways

Simile – comparison that uses the words “like” or “as”

Metaphor – comparison that does not use the word “like” or “as”

Theme – the message that the poem conveys