

American History

Assignment 13

- Prepare to take the third unit test, which will be given the two weeks after the break.
- Listen to “**Tippecanoe and Tyler Too**” —the campaign song for the Whig Party. Also, listen to “**Hail Columbia.**” The lyrics of “**Tippecanoe and Tyler Too**” may be found here. I welcome any more students interested in singing for extra credit either of these two songs.
- Read and study **Chapter 15 “Slavery and Secession,”** the first chapter of Unit 5.
- Read Thoreau’s response to the Fugitive Slave Law in “**Slavery in Massachusetts.**”
- Read the poem below and be able to discuss it as an abolitionist poem. What aspects of slavery are brought out by Longfellow? We will be reading a few more anti-slavery poems and discussing them in class. The picture on this assignment page is of Henry Wadsworth Longfellow, the greatest of the 19th-century American poets.

The Slave’s Dream

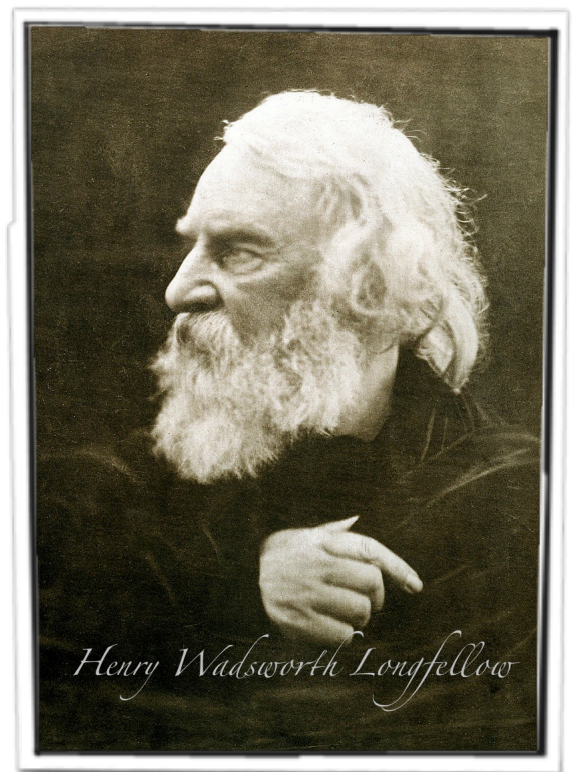
By Henry Wadsworth Longfellow

Beside the ungathered rice he lay,
His sickle in his hand;
His breast was bare, his matted hair
Was buried in the sand.
Again, in the mist and shadow of sleep,
He saw his Native Land.

Wide through the landscape of his dreams
The lordly Niger flowed;
Beneath the palm-trees on the plain
Once more a king he strode;
And heard the tinkling caravans
Descend the mountain-road.

He saw once more his dark-eyed queen
Among her children stand;
They clasped his neck, they kissed his cheeks,
They held him by the hand! —
A tear burst from the sleeper’s lids
And fell into the sand.

And then at furious speed he rode
Along the Niger’s bank;
His bridle-reins were golden chains,



And, with a martial clank,
At each leap he could feel his scabbard of steel
Smiting his stallion's flank.

Before him, like a blood-red flag,
The bright flamingoes flew;
From morn till night he followed their flight,
O'er plains where the tamarind grew,
Till he saw the roofs of Caffre huts,
And the ocean rose to view.

At night he heard the lion roar,
And the hyena scream,
And the river-horse, as he crushed the reeds
Beside some hidden stream;
And it passed, like a glorious roll of drums,
Through the triumph of his dream.

The forests, with their myriad tongues,
Shouted of liberty;
And the Blast of the Desert cried aloud,
With a voice so wild and free,
That he started in his sleep and smiled
At their tempestuous glee.

He did not feel the driver's whip,
Nor the burning heat of day;
For Death had illumined the Land of Sleep,
And his lifeless body lay
A worn-out fetter, that the soul
Had broken and thrown away!

Long-Range Assignment

Prepare to take the third unit test, which will be given the two weeks after the break.

CAUTION!!
COLORED PEOPLE
OF BOSTON, ONE & ALL,
You are hereby respectfully CAUTIONED and advised, to avoid conversing with the
Watchmen and Police Officers
of Boston,
For since the recent ORDER OF THE MAYOR & ALDERMEN, they are empowered to act as
KIDNAPPERS
AND
Slave Catchers,
And they have already been actually employed in KIDNAPPING, CATCHING, AND KEEPING SLAVES. Therefore, if you value your LIBERTY, and the Welfare of the Fugitives among you, Shun them in every possible manner, as so many HOUNDS on the track of the most unfortunate of your race.
Keep a Sharp Look Out for
KIDNAPPERS, and have
TOP EYE open.
APRIL 24, 1851.

The Massachusetts Fugitive Slave Law required state officials assist in capturing fugitive slaves. Here is a bill warning slaves to be wary.