



## Poetry

**Narrative Poetry** is poetry that tells a story or gives an account of events.



### Literary Elements

**Meter** is the regular arrangement of accented and unaccented syllables in a line of poetry.

**Alliteration** is the repetition of the same first letter or sound in a series of words.



# "Paul Revere's Ride"

*an excerpt from the poem by  
Henry Wadsworth Longfellow*



*Paul Revere was a hero of the American Revolution. With two other patriots, he rode across the countryside to warn the colonists of a British attack.*

**L**isten, my children, and you shall hear  
 Of the midnight ride of Paul Revere,  
 On the eighteenth of April, in seventy-five;  
 Hardly a man is now alive  
 Who remembers that famous day and year.  
 He said to his friend, "If the British march  
 By land or sea from the town tonight,  
 Hang a lantern aloft in the belfry arch  
 Of the North Church tower as a signal light—  
 One, if by land, and two, if by sea:  
 And I on the opposite shore will be,  
 Ready to ride and spread the alarm  
 Through every Middlesex village and farm,  
 For the country folk to be up and to arm."  
 Then he said, "Good night!" and with muffled oar  
 Silently rowed to the Charlestown shore,  
 Just as the moon rose over the bay,  
 Where swinging wide at her moorings lay  
 The *Somerset*, British man-of-war;  
 A phantom ship, with each mast and spar  
 Across the moon like a prison bar,  
 And a huge black hulk, that was magnified  
 By its own reflection in the tide.  
 Meanwhile, his friend, through alley and street,  
 Wanders and watches, with eager ears,  
 Till in the silence around him he hears  
 The muster of men at the barrack door,  
 And the measured tread of the grenadiers,  
 Marching down to their boats on the shore.



The repetition of the initial "w" and "e" sounds in this line are examples of *alliteration*.

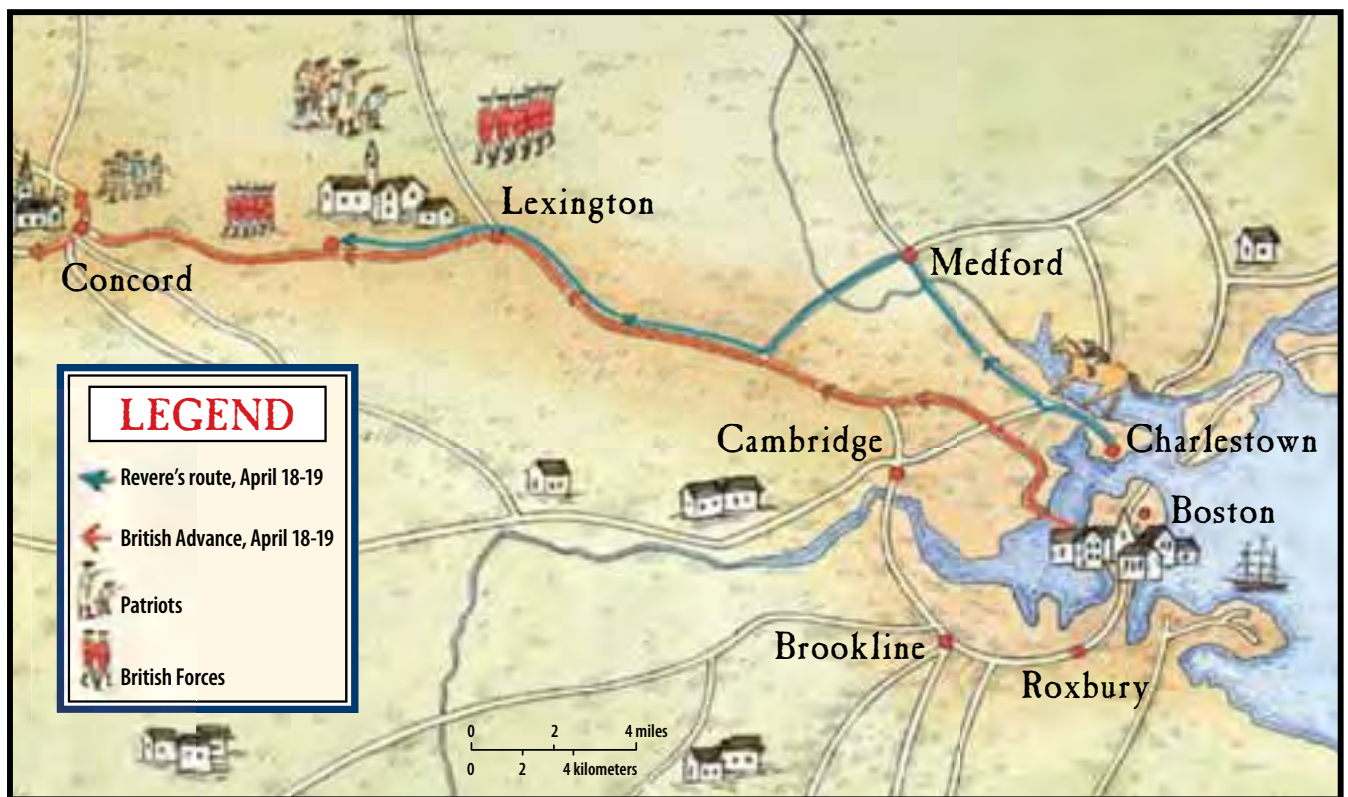




There are four accented syllables in this line. The arrangement of these syllables with unaccented syllables is an example of *meter*.

Then he climbed to the tower of  
Old North Church  
By the wooden stairs, with stealthy tread,  
To the belfry-chamber overhead,  
And startled the pigeons from their perch  
On the somber rafters, that round him made  
Masses and moving shapes of shade—  
By the trembling ladder, steep and tall,  
To the highest window in the wall,  
Where he paused to listen and look down  
A moment on the roofs of the town,  
And the moonlight flowing over all. . . .  
You know the rest in the books you have read  
How the British Regulars fired and fled,—  
How the farmers gave them ball for ball,  
From behind each fence and farmyard wall,  
Chasing the red-coats down the lane,  
Then crossing the fields to emerge again  
Under the trees at the turn of the road,  
And only pausing to fire and load.  
So through the night rode Paul Revere;  
And so through the night went his cry of alarm  
To every Middlesex village and farm,  
A cry of defiance and not of fear,  
A voice in the darkness, a knock at the door,  
And a word that shall echo forevermore!  
For, borne on the night-wind of the Past,  
Through all our history, to the last,  
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.





The first battle between the patriots and the British took place at Lexington. They fought again at Concord.

## Connect and Compare



1. What is another example of alliteration in this poem? **Alliteration**
2. Read the poem aloud. How might the meter help you memorize the poem? **Analyze**
3. Compare this poem with *Sleds on Boston Common*. In both the poem and the story, the authors describe the British. How are the descriptions similar? How are they different?

### Reading/Writing Across Texts



Find out more about narrative poetry at [www.macmillanmh.com](http://www.macmillanmh.com)

# Write About a Character

## Writer's Craft

### A Good Topic

To choose a **good topic**, first think about what interests you. Then narrow the focus so you can cover the topic completely.

I narrowed the focus to be about my character's own thoughts about one incident.

I tried to show how General Gage felt about Henry's request.

## Sledding Can Bring People Together

by Louisa P.

Today the most remarkable thing happened. I was doing my job supervising Boston Common when a brave young boy approached me. He asked my permission to sled on the nearby hills. All my troops were stationed there. I had a big decision to make. Should I allow the boy to sled or not?

Memories of my own children flashed before my eyes. How much they too would enjoy sledding on the Common if they had a chance. My heart felt tender towards the young lad. He saw his favorite sledding spot occupied by troops on his birthday. If I said yes, I would make his special day even more extraordinary.

My officer was standing by to see how I would react to this strange request. He probably could not understand why I was being so gracious. I figured it was a small kindness. Even during a time of war it is easy enough to do an act of peace.

## Your Turn

Write a brief character sketch from a first-person point of view. You may base your character on somebody you know, or choose a character from a book, movie, or TV show. Choose words that express the character's personality and feelings. Use the writer's checklist to check your writing.



## Writer's Checklist

- Ideas and Content:** Did I choose a **good topic** and narrow the focus to include the most interesting details about my character?
- Organization:** Does the sequence of ideas make sense?
- Voice:** Does the first-person point of view express my character's feelings and thoughts?
- Word Choice:** Do the words reveal my character's personality?
- Sentence Fluency:** Do the sentences match the way the character would speak?
- Conventions:** Do my subjects and verbs agree? Did I check my spelling?