

HAPPY 200TH BIRTHDAY, HENRY

Zoe Leino, sixth grade, Poland, ME

Zoe Leino writes about her poem:

The article searching for submissions inspired by Longfellow's work was brought to my attention by my Language Arts teacher, Mrs. Fanus. She told me I should submit something, and at first I wasn't interested, but now, as I am writing this, I realize that this is an excellent way to celebrate Longfellow and his work. I am very glad to participate in this and, therefore, happily send in a piece of my work titled "A Blank Stare." This poem is about the Titanic and a woman who was on the great ship and is floating away in a life boat while watching the ship in its time of terror.

I had already written some of this, but I had just moved on to other work. I decided to pick it up and was inspired to complete this historical poem after reading Longfellow's poem, "Paul Revere's Ride." I hope you enjoy this poem as much as I enjoyed writing it.



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Responding to Longfellow is a partnership of the Maine Historical Society; Maine's Poet Laureate; and the Stonecoast MFA Program at the University of Southern Maine. For more information, please visit www.hwlongfellow.org

489 Congress Street
Portland, Maine 04101-3498

HAPPY 200TH BIRTHDAY, HENRY

A BLANK STARE

By Zoe Leino, sixth grade, Poland, ME

A BLANK STARE,
FROM THE EYES.
HIDDEN BY THE HAIR,
WAS HER SURPRISE.

YOU COULD SEE IT IN HER EYES,
EXACTLY WHAT SHE WAS THINKING.
THE WAY THAT SHE WATCHED,
AS THE GREAT SHIP WAS SINKING.

SHE LOOKED IN AWE,
AS SHE WONDERED.
WAS THAT REALLY WHAT SHE SAW?

THE SHIP TITANIC,
ONCE THOUGHT TO BE GREAT.
NOW DOWN,
DOWN,
UNDER A THINK LAYER OF ICE COLD WATER.

THE SHIP SHE HAD BEEN ON JUST SECONDS BEFORE,
DISAPPEARING BEFORE HER MAJESTIC EYES.
MELTING INTO THE DEEP, DARK SEA,
LIKE AN ICE CUBE IN HER DRINK.

SHE STOOD THERE WATCHING,
WATCHING WITH HER DAUGHTER,
WATCHING TO SEE WHAT WOULD HAPPEN NEXT.

THE PEOPLE STRUGGLE TO REACH AN ICEBURG,
AFTER THE SHIP'S DEMISE.
ONLY TO FIND IT CRUMBLING BENEATH THEIR FEET.
YOU COULD SEE IT IN HER EYES,

A BLANK STARE.



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