

## HAPPY 200TH BIRTHDAY, HENRY

Sally Littlefield, 6<sup>th</sup> grade, Poland, ME

Sally Littlefield writes about her poem:

I am a sixth grader at Poland Community School. My teacher informed our class of this celebration. When I heard about it I knew I wanted to send my poem.

My poem is called “Ruined” and it is about the Holocaust. I have read some of Longfellow’s poems. I’m aware that he was an abolitionist; many of his poems are about slavery and other historical events. I also like to write about historical events, mainly the Holocaust. Plus I also read about the topic before I start writing a story or poem. So that’s partly why I’m sending in my poem.

### Ruined

My gaze was fixed on that spot,  
A shocked stare.  
I felt numb.  
Who would think our house,  
gone.  
Our house was still smoldering.

The Nazis had no right.  
No right to bomb our house.

As we looked through the rubble,  
we made out our things.  
I found my locket,  
Now black with ash.  
I opened it.  
The picture inside was gone.  
Just ash remained.  
Too much ash around us,  
Around this whole town.

The Nazis had no right  
to kill innocent people.  
They ruined our lives,  
Our families.

How dare they send my  
brothers on a cattle car to get work  
saying they would come back.  
They  
never  
did.



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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](http://www.hwlongfellow.org)