

PROJECT WEEK

ARCHWAY GLENDALE | FOURTH GRADE

Dear Parents,

As you may know the week of October 2-6, 2023 is Project Week. While we will be having conferences with you throughout the week, the students will be working on an assignment. They are to study and memorize at home the final five stanzas of the poem that we have been working on in class the last several weeks. They will recite the poem in its entirety the week of October 16-20. The Project Week poem is *Paul Revere's Ride* by Henry Wadsworth Longfellow. While the task may seem daunting, we have every confidence that your student will be able to rise to the challenge.

Below are some suggestions and guidelines that should assist you in this process and enable your student to successfully complete the assignment and be able to recite it with confidence. The assignment is to be completed over Project Week, but there is nothing to stop those who want to, from doing it over the course of the entire break. We would suggest that you choose one of the following approaches to memorizing the poem.

OPTION ONE:

Study the poem, over the course of the entire break. There are 5 stanzas yet to be memorized. This would be about six lines per day (five days a week), leaving the last few days to perfect the performance portion of the recitation.

OPTION TWO:

Save the entirety of the poem for Project Week. This would be broken down into approximately one and a half stanzas per day (five days a week) and a minimum of 2 hours or so per day spent working on the poem. This would leave the last day to perfect the performance portion of the recitation.

In addition to accuracy, pace, volume, tone, and proper punctuation are all part of the overall recitation grade. Below are some tips to help with the memorization and recitation of this poem.

MEMORIZATION TIPS:

- After reading over the stanzas several times, write out the first letter of each word in the stanza on a note card. Then try to recite the stanza using only those first letters as a guide.
- Practice the poem with a partner, "ping-ponging" back and forth, each person saying every other word. Progress to saying every other line.
- Read the poem, aloud, with inflection, three separate times a day.
- Draw pictures of each stanza. Try to recite the poem from looking at the pictures.
- Use an iPad or similar device to record different stanzas and play back for auditory exposure. Students can also quiz themselves by recording portions and then self-checking what they have recorded.
- Listen to and recite along with a dramatic recitation of the poem.
<https://tinyurl.com/52jphnjy>
- Fill-in-the blank worksheets have been provided as an additional resource. These worksheets are helpful in identifying the areas in which your student needs additional practice.

We hope you have a wonderful break! We look forward to seeing you at conferences!

Sincerely,

The Fourth Grade Team