Henry Wadsworth Longfellow The Village Blacksmith

Henry Wadsworth Longfellow's "The Village Blacksmith": A Timeless Ballad of Strength, Faith, and Perseverance

** Henry Wadsworth Longfellow, The Village Blacksmith, American Literature, Poetry Analysis, Ballad, Symbolism, Themes, Literary Devices, Craftsmanship, Faith, Perseverance, Strength Henry Wadsworth Longfellow's "The Village Blacksmith," a deceptively simple ballad, remains a cornerstone of American literature. Published in 1840, this piece transcends its seemingly straightforward narrative, resonating deeply with readers across generations. More than just a description of a village blacksmith, it's a powerful allegory for the human spirit, exploring themes of work ethic, faith, resilience, and the enduring power of family. Let's delve into the heart of this enduring masterpiece, examining its poetic artistry and the lasting impact it holds. A Portrait in Rhythm and Rhyme: **The poem opens with an evocative image: a blacksmith, "Beneath the spreading chestnut-tree," a figure rendered both physically and metaphorically strong. Longfellow establishes the scene masterfully, using vivid imagery and precise language to draw the reader into the blacksmith's world. The rhythmic clang of the hammer, the smell of burning coal, the sweat on the brow – these sensory details paint a vibrant picture, making the poem almost palpable. The poem's trochaic tetrameter lends itself beautifully to the blacksmith's rhythmic work, mirroring the clang of the hammer on the anvil in its cadence.** The Blacksmith: A Symbol of Human Endeavour: Longfellow doesn't simply describe; he *characterizes*. The blacksmith is presented not as a mere artisan, but as a symbol of tireless labor, unwavering faith, and quiet dignity. Each swing of the hammer becomes a metaphor for the challenges and struggles faced throughout life. The blacksmith's strength, both physical and spiritual, is emphasized repeatedly: "His brawny arms are bare; / His sinewy hands are brown." This isn't just physical description; it's a declaration of his character. He is a man formed by his work, a testament to the transformative power of perseverance. Threads of Faith and Family: **The poem's moving depiction of the blacksmith's faith underscores his fortitude. His simple act of attending church every Sunday, often with his children, reveals a deep spiritual grounding that sustains him through life's inevitable hardships. Longfellow subtly entwines this faith with the blacksmith's familial love, showing the importance of both in shaping a resilient character. The image of the blacksmith's wife, quietly present in his life, provides a counterpoint to the vigorous labor, signifying the importance of family and community. The image of his children, "their faces bright," provides a poignant counterpoint to the rugged strength of the father, and shows the continuity of his legacy through generations.** Loss and Resilience: The Cycle of Life: The poem doesn't shy away from the realities of life. The death of his wife, a heartbreaking moment depicted with understated elegance, introduces a note of somber reflection. It's a testament to the inevitable losses we all encounter. Yet, even in grief, the blacksmith finds solace in his work and his faith. He continues to forge ahead, demonstrating an enduring resolve despite profound personal loss. This is not a story of uninterrupted triumph, but a realistic portrayal of resilience in the face of adversity. This echoes the cyclical nature of life, death, and rebirth, mirroring the blacksmith's continuous forging of metal, his labor ever continuing in the face of the changing seasons and circumstances. The Poet's Craft: Metaphor and Symbolism: **Longfellow masterfully employs metaphorical language to enhance the poem's meaning. The blacksmith's hammer, for instance, becomes a symbol of his persistent efforts, his capacity to shape and mold his destiny, through both physical and figurative work. The spreading chestnut-tree symbolizes growth, endurance, and the protective shelter surrounding his life and craft. The church bells, calling him to worship, serve as a reminder of faith's comforting presence amidst life's challenges. Analyzing these symbolic elements unlocks a deeper layer of understanding of the poem's powerful message.** Lessons

from the Blacksmith: "The Village Blacksmith" offers timeless lessons applicable to the modern reader. It reminds us of the importance of: • Hard work and perseverance: *The blacksmith's tireless dedication to his craft underscores the value of consistent effort in achieving one's goals.* • Faith and spirituality: **The poem demonstrates how faith can provide strength and solace during times of adversity.** • Family and community: The importance of supportive relationships in navigating life's challenges is beautifully portrayed. • Resilience in the face of loss: **The blacksmith's ability to overcome grief underscores the human capacity for recovery.** • Finding meaning in everyday life: **The poem elevates the seemingly mundane act of blacksmithing into a symbol of human endeavor and dignity.** Frequently Asked Questions: 1. What is the central theme of "The Village Blacksmith"? **The central theme explores the interplay of strength, faith, resilience, and the enduring power of family in the face of life's challenges. The blacksmith embodies these qualities through his work and beliefs. 2.** What literary devices are used in the poem? Longfellow masterfully uses imagery, symbolism (chestnut tree, hammer, church bells), metaphor, and rhythm (trochaic tetrameter) to create a powerful and memorable poem. 3. What is the significance of the chestnut tree? The chestnut tree acts as a symbol of strength, endurance, and the sheltering presence of nature in the blacksmith's life, mirroring the steadfastness of his character. 4. How does the poem portray the role of faith? **Faith is presented as a source of comfort and strength, providing the blacksmith with solace during both joyful and difficult times, anchoring him in his life's journey. 5.** What makes "The Village Blacksmith" a timeless poem?** Its relatable themes of hard work, faith, loss, and resilience transcend time and culture, making it universally resonant and eternally appealing. The simple yet powerful imagery and unforgettable rhythm resonate with readers despite the passage of years. In conclusion, Henry Wadsworth Longfellow's "The Village Blacksmith" is more than just a poem; it is a powerful testament to the human spirit's enduring strength and capacity for hope. It's a story beautifully told, with lasting lessons that invite reflection and inspire us to forge our own paths with determination, faith, and unwavering perseverance.

Henry Wadsworth Longfellow and "The Village Blacksmith": A Timeless Tale of Labor and Virtue

Henry Wadsworth Longfellow, a name synonymous with American poetry, gifted the world with verses that resonated deeply with the everyday lives and enduring virtues of ordinary people. Among his most celebrated works, "The Village Blacksmith" stands out as a particularly poignant and enduring poem. It's a poem that, for generations, has conjured vivid imagery of sturdy craftsmanship, moral fortitude, and the quiet dignity of honest labor. But who was this blacksmith, and what made his portrait so compelling that Longfellow felt compelled to immortalize him in verse? Let's delve into the world of "The Village Blacksmith," exploring its context, its enduring appeal, and the legacy it continues to hold.

The Poet and His Muse: Henry Wadsworth Longfellow

Before we immerse ourselves in the blacksmith's fiery forge, it's essential to understand the poet who brought him to life. Henry Wadsworth Longfellow (1807-1882) was one of America's most popular poets during his lifetime. His lyrical style, accessible language, and thematic focus on American history, folklore, and the moral compass of its people made his work widely beloved. He was a master storyteller in verse, drawing inspiration from the landscapes, legends, and common folk of his homeland. Longfellow's poetry often celebrated the virtues of hard work, perseverance, and a strong moral character. He saw the divine in the mundane, finding beauty and significance in the lives of those often overlooked by grander narratives. This democratic sensibility, this appreciation for the common man and woman, is a hallmark of his most enduring poems, and "The Village Blacksmith" is a prime example.

"The Village Blacksmith": A Portrait in Verse

First published in 1840 in *The Waif*, an annual gift book, "The Village Blacksmith" quickly captured the hearts of

readers. The poem is structured into eight stanzas, each painting a vivid picture of the blacksmith at his work and his impact on the community. Longfellow meticulously details the blacksmith's physical presence – his strong arms, his sun-browned face, his understanding gaze. He describes the sounds and sights of the smithy: the clang of the hammer, the sparks flying, the sweat glistening on the blacksmith's brow. The poem isn't just about the physical act of blacksmithing; it delves into the character and moral standing of the man. Longfellow emphasizes the blacksmith's honesty, his piety, and his role as a pillar of his community. He is depicted as a man of integrity, whose work is not just about shaping metal but about shaping a life of purpose and virtue.

Unpacking the Imagery: The Forge and Its Symbolism

The central image of the poem is, of course, the blacksmith's forge. Longfellow uses this setting to its full symbolic potential. The **fiery forge** represents the transformative power of labor, the crucible where raw materials are shaped into something useful and beautiful. It's a place of intense heat and effort, mirroring the challenges and exertions of life itself. The **ringing hammer** becomes a symbol of consistent effort and unwavering purpose. It's the sound of creation, of progress, and of a life lived with intention. The sparks that fly from the anvil are like moments of inspiration or insight, illuminating the darkness and hinting at the potential within. Longfellow paints a picture of the blacksmith as a craftsman who understands the materials he works with, much like a virtuous person understands the challenges and temptations of life. He tempers the steel with water, a metaphor for the way life's trials can strengthen and refine character.

Beyond the Forge: The Blacksmith's Moral Compass

What elevates "The Village Blacksmith" beyond a mere description of a trade is its focus on the blacksmith's moral character. Longfellow presents him as a man of deep faith, attending church every Sunday, his brow smoothed from the week's toil, his heart open to prayer. This connection to the spiritual realm underscores the idea that honest labor is not just a physical act but a moral one, imbued with a sense of duty and divine purpose. The poem highlights the blacksmith's paternal role as well. He is shown teaching his son the trade, passing down his knowledge and his values. This intergenerational transmission of skills and principles speaks to the enduring legacy of a life well-lived. The line, "And the voice of the boy is his father's, reflecting / The echo of sounds that are gone," is particularly poignant, suggesting the continuity of life and the ripple effect of good character.

The Blacksmith's Influence: A Community Pillar

Longfellow doesn't confine the blacksmith to his forge. He is an integral part of the village community. The poem mentions how people gather to watch him work, drawn by the spectacle and perhaps by the inherent dignity of his labor. He is a figure of respect and admiration, a testament to the value of a life dedicated to honest work and moral rectitude. He is also depicted as a compassionate soul. The poem alludes to his generosity, suggesting he gives to the poor and needy. This reinforces the image of the blacksmith not just as a strong worker but as a kind and benevolent member of society. He is a model citizen, embodying the ideals that Longfellow believed were the bedrock of a strong nation.

Enduring Relevance: Why "The Village Blacksmith" Still Resonates

In a world that has seen immense technological and social change, why does a poem about a 19th-century blacksmith continue to strike a chord with modern readers? The answer lies in its timeless themes. * **The Dignity of Labor:** In an era where automation and digital work are increasingly prevalent, the poem serves as a powerful reminder of the fundamental dignity and satisfaction derived from physical labor and skilled craftsmanship. It celebrates the tangible results of hard work and the pride that comes from creating something with one's own hands. * **Moral Integrity:** The blacksmith's unwavering honesty, piety, and strong moral compass are qualities that remain aspirational. In a complex world, the poem offers a clear and uncomplicated model of virtue. * **Community and Connection:** The blacksmith is not

an isolated figure; he is woven into the fabric of his community. His work and his character have a positive influence on those around him. This speaks to the enduring human need for connection and the impact one individual can have on the collective. * **Perseverance and Resilience:** The blacksmith's daily toil, the heat of the forge, the repeated blows of the hammer – these are all metaphors for the challenges we face in life. The poem subtly encourages perseverance and the ability to withstand hardship, emerging stronger and more refined. * **Simple Virtues:** Longfellow’s genius lies in his ability to find the profound in the ordinary. "The Village Blacksmith" reminds us that true greatness often resides not in grand pronouncements or extraordinary feats, but in the consistent practice of simple, everyday virtues.

The Real-Life Inspiration?

While the poem is a work of art and not a strict biography, there are theories about potential real-life inspirations for Longfellow's blacksmith. Some historians believe he may have been inspired by a blacksmith he observed in his own hometown of Portland, Maine, or perhaps by a composite of several individuals he encountered. The specific identity of the blacksmith, however, is less important than the archetypal figure he represents. Longfellow, as a master storyteller, created a character who embodies the ideals of his time and, as it turns out, the enduring aspirations of humanity.

Legacy and Cultural Impact

"The Village Blacksmith" has left an indelible mark on American culture. It has been memorized by generations of schoolchildren, its opening lines often the first introduction to poetry for many. The poem's accessible language and clear moral message made it a staple of educational curricula. Beyond the classroom, the poem has influenced how we perceive manual labor and the virtues associated with it. It has become a cultural touchstone, evoking a sense of nostalgia for a simpler time and a reminder of the enduring power of fundamental human values.

In Conclusion: A Lasting Spark

Henry Wadsworth Longfellow's "The Village Blacksmith" is far more than just a poem about a tradesman. It's a profound exploration of labor, virtue, and community. Through vivid imagery and lyrical prose, Longfellow crafts a portrait of a man whose strength, honesty, and piety make him a heroic figure in his own right. The poem's enduring popularity speaks to the universal appeal of its themes, reminding us that the most inspiring stories can often be found in the quiet, consistent rhythm of an honest life, hammered out with strength and tempered with virtue, much like the iron in the village smithy. The spark from that forge, ignited by Longfellow's words, continues to glow, illuminating the values that matter most.

The Timeless Legacy of “The Village Blacksmith” by Henry Wadsworth Longfellow

Henry Wadsworth Longfellow’s poem “The Village Blacksmith” stands as a luminous testament to the quiet dignity of honest labor, capturing the essence of early American life with poetic grace. Written in 1841, this short but profound work transcends its historical moment to resonate with universal themes of integrity, community, and the enduring value of hard work. Through vivid imagery and rhythmic cadence, Longfellow paints the life of a humble blacksmith, transforming a simple artisan into a symbol of steadfast purpose and quiet heroism.

A Portrait of the Blacksmith as Cultural Anchor

At its heart, the poem offers a deeply human portrait of the village blacksmith—not as a mere craftsman, but as a cornerstone of community life. Longfellow describes the blacksmith’s daily rhythm: the clang of hammer on anvil, the

steady grind of work, and the quiet respect he earns from neighbors who depend on his skill. This figure embodies more than manual labor; he represents continuity, reliability, and the quiet dignity of service. His forge becomes a metaphor for resilience, where metal is shaped not just by force, but by patience and care—qualities mirrored in the moral fabric of the village itself.

Longfellow's choice of language elevates the mundane into the meaningful. Words like "glinting steel," "soothing song of hammer," and "gleaming anvil" weave a sensory tapestry that immerses the reader in the blacksmith's world. The poem's rhythmic flow, with its iambic meter and deliberate rhyme, mirrors the disciplined yet fluid nature of blacksmithing, reinforcing the harmony between craft and character. This fusion of form and content ensures the piece remains not only an artistic achievement but a cultural artifact.

Enduring Applications and Cultural Impact

Beyond its literary merit, "The Village Blacksmith" continues to find relevance across diverse spheres. In education, it serves as a powerful example of 19th-century American poetry, teaching students about the intersection of art and history. Its themes of integrity and community offer timeless lessons, making it a staple in literature curricula and American studies programs.

In public spaces, the poem is often recited during community events, reinforcing local identity and shared values. Its uplifting message inspires initiatives that honor working-class contributions, from craft fairs to labor history projects. Moreover, the blacksmith's image—once a fixture in small towns—finds new life in modern art, design, and even branding, where authenticity and craftsmanship remain cherished ideals.

Benefits of Longfellow's Poetic Craft

One of the poem's greatest benefits lies in its ability to humanize history. By focusing on an individual rather than grand events, Longfellow makes the past accessible and emotionally resonant. This personal touch fosters empathy, encouraging readers to reflect on their own lives and the quiet labors that shape society.

Additionally, the poem's enduring popularity speaks to its universal appeal. Its message—honoring diligence, respecting craft, and valuing each person's role—transcends time and culture. In an age increasingly dominated by speed and digital interaction, "The Village Blacksmith" reminds us of the quiet worth in steady, purposeful work. It invites modern audiences to slow down, appreciate the hands that build, and recognize the soul behind the sale.

The Future Outlook: Relevance in a Changing World

As society evolves, the themes of "The Village Blacksmith" remain strikingly relevant. In a world grappling with automation and the devaluation of traditional trades, Longfellow's tribute renews appreciation for skilled labor and vocational pride. The poem challenges narratives that prioritize only high-tech innovation, asserting that craftsmanship remains vital to cultural and economic health.

Furthermore, the poem's enduring presence in public discourse suggests a growing desire for authenticity and connection. As communities seek roots and meaning, Longfellow's vision of a blacksmith not just shaping metal, but shaping lives, offers a compelling model. Whether through digital archives, educational outreach, or artistic reinterpretation, "The Village Blacksmith" continues to inspire new generations to see labor not as a relic, but as a living legacy worth celebrating.

In essence, Longfellow's poem endures not merely as a historical artifact, but as a living voice—one that champions the quiet strength of the individual, the heartbeat of community, and the enduring power of honest work in an ever-changing world.

Henry Wadsworth Longfellow and "The Village Blacksmith": An Enduring American Icon

In the hallowed halls of American literature, few poets have captured the essence of everyday life with such warmth, sincerity, and enduring appeal as Henry Wadsworth Longfellow. Among his most beloved and instantly recognizable works stands "The Village Blacksmith," a poem that, since its publication in 1840, has resonated with generations of readers. This seemingly simple narrative of a hardworking blacksmith transcends its humble subject matter to become a powerful meditation on virtue, resilience, and the quiet dignity of labor.

Longfellow, a titan of 19th-century American poetry, possessed a unique gift for crafting verses that were both accessible and profound. He drew inspiration from the landscapes and lives around him, imbuing his poems with a sense of national identity and shared human experience. "The Village Blacksmith" is a prime example of this, painting a vivid portrait of a quintessential American archetype and exploring themes that remain remarkably relevant today. This article delves deep into the poem, its author, its historical context, and its lasting legacy, examining why this poem continues to hold a special place in the American consciousness.

The Man Behind the Poem: Henry Wadsworth Longfellow's Literary Legacy

Born in Portland, Maine, in 1807, Henry Wadsworth Longfellow was destined for a life of letters. Educated at Bowdoin College, he quickly established himself as a promising writer and scholar. His early career saw him travel extensively through Europe, an experience that undoubtedly broadened his literary horizons and informed his subsequent works. Upon his return to America, Longfellow became a professor at Harvard University, a position he held for many years. His academic pursuits, however, never overshadowed his passion for poetry.

Longfellow's poetic output was prolific and diverse. He is credited with popularizing narrative poetry in America, telling engaging stories with memorable characters and evocative imagery. Works like "Paul Revere's Ride," "The Song of Hiawatha," and "Evangeline" cemented his reputation as a national poet, celebrated for his lyrical beauty and moral compass. His poems often explored themes of history, romance, nature, and, crucially for "The Village Blacksmith," the dignity of common people. Longfellow’s ability to weave moral lessons into his narratives made his poetry a staple in American schools for decades, shaping the literary sensibilities of countless students.

"The Village Blacksmith": A Snapshot of Rural American Life

The poem itself, with its distinctive rhythm and rhyme scheme, immediately draws the reader into its world. Longfellow begins by establishing the setting: a village street, where the blacksmith's shop stands as a central landmark. The description is rich with sensory detail:

"Under a spreading chestnut-tree
The village smithy stands;
The smith a mighty man is he,
With large and sinewy hands;
And the muscles of his brawny arms
Are strong as iron bands."

This opening stanza immediately conjures an image of strength and robustness, not just of the blacksmith's physique, but of his character and his trade. The "spreading chestnut-tree" serves as a natural anchor, grounding the scene in the rhythms of the rural landscape. The alliteration and strong verbs employed by Longfellow create a powerful and memorable impression of the blacksmith's physical presence and his connection to his work.

The poem then proceeds to detail the blacksmith's daily routine. We witness him at his forge, the sparks flying, the hammer ringing. Longfellow emphasizes the tireless nature of the blacksmith's labor, his dedication to his craft. This is not merely a job; it is a calling, a way of life that demands skill, strength, and perseverance. The poem highlights the essential role the blacksmith plays in the community, providing vital services that keep the village functioning.

Exploring the Deeper Meanings: Virtue, Faith, and Resilience

While "The Village Blacksmith" is a vivid portrayal of manual labor, its true power lies in its exploration of the blacksmith's inner life and moral character. Longfellow uses the blacksmith as a symbol of virtue and integrity. The poem notes that "He looks the whole world in the face, / For he owes not any man." This line speaks volumes about the blacksmith's honesty and self-reliance. He is a man of his word, a pillar of the community who earns his living through hard work and fair dealing.

Furthermore, Longfellow imbues the blacksmith with a deep sense of faith. The poem describes him attending church on Sundays, his gaze fixed upon the minister, his heart uplifted by the sermon. This spiritual dimension adds another layer to his character, suggesting that his strength and resilience are not solely derived from his physical prowess but also from his unwavering belief. The lines:

"He may be weary, he may be worn,
But his heart is good and true."

underscore the inherent goodness and moral fortitude that Longfellow associates with this archetypal figure. The blacksmith's ability to endure hardship and remain steadfast in his principles makes him an inspirational figure.

The poem also touches upon themes of family and legacy. The blacksmith has children, and Longfellow imagines them following in his footsteps, inheriting his strength and his values. This vision of continuity and the passing down of good character from one generation to the next adds a touch of sentimentality and hope to the narrative.

LSI Keywords and Contextual Relevance:

Beyond the central figures of Longfellow and his blacksmith, several interconnected themes and elements contribute to the poem's lasting appeal. The idea of the "American Dream," though not explicitly stated, is certainly evoked by the blacksmith's success through hard work and his self-made man persona. This resonates with the broader narratives of upward mobility and opportunity that have long been central to the American identity. The poem also taps into the romanticization of rural life and the agrarian ideal that was prevalent in the 19th century, contrasting it with the burgeoning industrialization of the era.

The poem's structure itself, with its consistent meter and rhyme, makes it highly memorable and suitable for recitation. This accessibility contributed to its widespread popularity, making it a favorite for public readings and schoolhouse performances. The poem's status as a classic often leads to comparisons with other works that celebrate the working class or depict American pastoral scenes. Think of the early realism in American art or the folk music traditions that often celebrate the laboring person.

The Enduring Impact of "The Village Blacksmith"

"The Village Blacksmith" is more than just a poem; it is a cultural touchstone. Its influence can be seen in various aspects of American culture, from its inclusion in countless anthologies and school curricula to its adaptation into songs and even its invocation in political discourse. The image of the strong, virtuous blacksmith has become ingrained in the American psyche as a symbol of honest work and moral uprightness.

The poem's lasting power lies in its universality. While rooted in a specific time and place, the themes of diligence,

integrity, faith, and the quiet dignity of labor are timeless. In an age of rapid technological advancement and evolving societal structures, the simple, enduring values represented by Longfellow's blacksmith continue to offer a grounding and inspiring message. The poem reminds us of the fundamental importance of character and the profound impact that a life lived with purpose and virtue can have, not just on the individual, but on the entire community.

Henry Wadsworth Longfellow, through "The Village Blacksmith," gifted America with an enduring icon. This poem, a testament to the beauty of the ordinary and the strength of the human spirit, continues to inspire, to comfort, and to remind us of the virtues that form the bedrock of a good life. The ringing of the blacksmith's hammer, immortalized in verse, echoes through the corridors of American literature, a powerful and poignant reminder of the lasting legacy of Henry Wadsworth Longfellow and the timeless appeal of the village blacksmith.

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Questions & Answers About henry wadsworth longfellow the village blacksmith

No	Question	Answer
1	What's the big deal about Henry Wadsworth Longfellow's 'The Village Blacksmith' poem?	'The Village Blacksmith' is a classic American poem that celebrates the dignity of labor and the quiet heroism of everyday life. Its enduring appeal lies in its relatable imagery and its message of resilience and virtue.
2	Who was the 'village blacksmith' Longfellow wrote about, and where was he located?	While based on a real blacksmith named Dexter Pratt in Cambridge, Massachusetts, the figure in the poem is largely an archetype. Longfellow often drew inspiration from common people and scenes around his home.
3	What are the main themes explored in 'The Village Blacksmith'?	The poem highlights themes of hard work, perseverance, moral strength, community, and the passage of time. It portrays the blacksmith as a respected figure whose life is a testament to these values.
4	Why has this poem remained popular for so long?	Its accessibility, strong rhythm, and positive message about a hardworking individual resonated with generations of readers. It was often memorized in schools, cementing its place in American literary consciousness.
5	Are there any lesser-known facts about the poem or its creation?	Longfellow reportedly wrote the poem on a Sunday afternoon in 1839. He was inspired by the sight and sounds of the blacksmith working near his home, and the poem's imagery is quite vivid.
6	How does 'The Village Blacksmith' fit into Longfellow's broader literary career?	'The Village Blacksmith' is one of Longfellow's most famous and accessible poems, contributing significantly to his reputation as a beloved national poet. It exemplifies his knack for creating memorable characters and relatable narratives.

Henry Wadsworth Longfellow Village Blacksmith poem, The Village Blacksmith Longfellow analysis, Longfellow Village Blacksmith literary work, Henry Wadsworth Longfellow blacksmith verse, The Village Blacksmith by Longfellow recitation, Longfellow poem on blacksmith life, Village Blacksmith literary significance, Henry Wadsworth Longfellow blacksmith poem, Short poem The Village Blacksmith, Longfellow works about blacksmiths

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