



# Poetry Recitation & Copywork

## Poetry Selections

We've included six poems that evoke the beauty of the ocean for your kids and teens to read, listen to, memorize, and recite. They are:

- Sea Fever by John Masefield
- After the Sea-Ship by Walt Whitman
- The Sound of the Sea by Henry Wadsworth Longfellow
- The Tide Rises, The Tide Falls by Henry Wadsworth Longfellow
- Calm at Sea by Johann Wolfgang von Goethe
- The Prosperous Voyage by Johann Wolfgang von Goethe

For copy work, we have included Zaner-Bloser style handwriting sheets for primary, elementary, and cursive, as well as college-ruled for older students. The poems we have chosen are:

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*“That the sea is one of the most beautiful and magnificent sights in Nature, all admit.”*

~ John Joly

# Ocean Poetry Selections

## **Sea-Fever**

*by John Masefield*

I must go down to the seas again, to the lonely sea and the sky,  
And all I ask is a tall ship and a star to steer her by;  
And the wheel's kick and the wind's song and the white sail's shaking,  
And a grey mist on the sea's face, and a grey dawn breaking.

I must go down to the seas again, for the call of the running tide  
Is a wild call and a clear call that may not be denied;  
And all I ask is a windy day with the white clouds flying,  
And the flung spray and the blown spume, and the sea-gulls crying.

I must go down to the seas again, to the vagrant gypsy life,  
To the gull's way and the whale's way where the wind's like a whetted knife;  
And all I ask is a merry yarn from a laughing fellow-rover,  
And quiet sleep and a sweet dream when the long trick's over.

## **After the Sea-Ship**

*by Walt Whitman*

AFTER the Sea-Ship—after the whistling winds;  
After the white-gray sails, taut to their spars and ropes,  
Below, a myriad, myriad waves, hastening, lifting up their necks,  
Tending in ceaseless flow toward the track of the ship:  
Waves of the ocean, bubbling and gurgling, blithely prying,  
Waves, undulating waves—liquid, uneven, emulous waves,  
Toward that whirling current, laughing and buoyant, with curves,  
Where the great Vessel, sailing and tacking, displaced the surface;  
Larger and smaller waves, in the spread of the ocean, yearnfully  
    flowing;  
The wake of the Sea-Ship, after she passes—flashing and frolicsome,  
    under the sun,

A motley procession, with many a fleck of foam, and many fragments,  
Following the stately and rapid Ship—in the wake following.

# Ocean Poetry Selections

## **The Sound of the Sea**

*by Henry Wadsworth Longfellow*

The sea awoke at midnight from its sleep,  
And round the pebbly beaches far and wide  
I heard the first wave of the rising tide  
Rush onward with uninterrupted sweep;  
A voice out of the silence of the deep,  
A sound mysteriously multiplied  
As of a cataract from the mountain's side,  
Or roar of winds upon a wooded steep.  
So comes to us at times, from the unknown  
And inaccessible solitudes of being,  
The rushing of the sea-tides of the soul;  
And inspirations, that we deem our own,  
Are some divine foreshadowing and foreseeing  
Of things beyond our reason or control.

## **The Tide Rises, The Tide Falls**

*by Henry Wadsworth Longfellow*

The tide rises, the tide falls,  
The twilight darkens, the curlew calls;  
Along the sea-sands damp and brown  
The traveller hastens toward the town,  
And the tide rises, the tide falls.

Darkness settles on roofs and walls,  
But the sea, the sea in the darkness calls;  
The little waves, with their soft, white hands,  
Efface the footprints in the sands,  
And the tide rises, the tide falls.

The morning breaks; the steeds in their stalls  
Stamp and neigh, as the hostler calls;  
The day returns, but nevermore  
Returns the traveller to the shore,  
And the tide rises, the tide falls.

# Ocean Poetry Selections (Bonus)

Note: These poems by Johann Wolfgang von Goethe inspired Beethoven to create two of our classical music selections, "Calm at Sea" and "The Prosperous Voyage." Listen to them while reading these poems for a fully immersive experience!

## **Calm At Sea**

*by Johann Wolfgang von Goethe*

SILENCE deep rules o'er the waters,

Calmly slumb'ring lies the main,  
While the sailor views with trouble

Nought but one vast level plain.

Not a zephyr is in motion!

Silence fearful as the grave!  
In the mighty waste of ocean

Sunk to rest is ev'ry wave.

## **The Prosperous Voyage**

*by Johann Wolfgang von Goethe*

THE mist is fast clearing.  
And radiant is heaven,  
Whilst AEolus loosens  
Our anguish-fraught bond.  
The zephyrs are sighing,  
Alert is the sailor.  
Quick! nimbly be plying!  
The billows are riven,  
The distance approaches;  
I see land beyond!

# Poetry Study

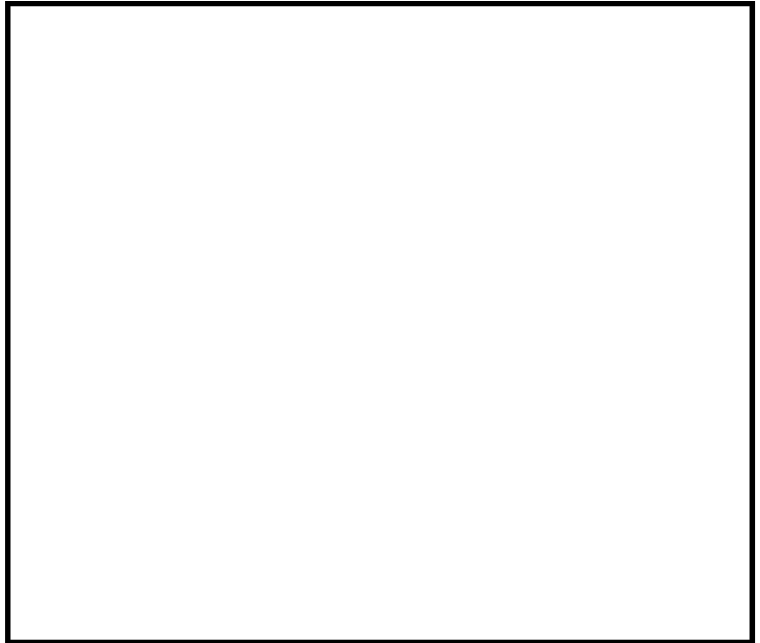
**Title:**

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**Type of Poem:**

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**Use the box to at right to draw a picture of what the poem brings to mind.**



**Write one thing you liked and did not like about the poem:**

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**Write three adjectives about the poem.**

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**Compose a few lines of your own poem inspired by this work**

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