

The Courtship of Miles Standish (Excerpt)

*“For there are moments in life, when the heart is so full of emotion,
That if by chance it be shaken, or into its depths like a pebble
Drops some careless word, it overflows, and its secret,
Spilt on the ground like water, can never be gathered together.”*

Henry Wadsworth Longfellow (1807–1882)

The Lesson (An Interpretive Excerpt)

Then the heart has revealed itself, and the pent-up feelings
Lie exposed to the light of day, and their pathway is open.
Therefore distrust not the impulse that prompts you to speak honestly,
For truth once spoken may change the course of a lifetime.