

The background of the cover is a detailed illustration of a winter night scene. In the foreground, a wooden bench covered in snow holds an open book of hymns and a smaller book titled 'HYMNS'. The open book shows the lyrics 'O Come, All Ye Faithful' and musical notation. To the left of the bench is a classic street lamp with a warm glow, decorated with a red bow and holly. In the background, a stone church with a tall steeple and a bell tower stands in the snow. The church's windows are lit from within, and a small bell is visible in the tower. The sky is dark blue with falling snow and stars. The entire scene is framed by a decorative border of holly leaves, pine branches, and berries.

CHRISTMAS
with
HENRY
CAROL & BELL GUIDE

*An Illustrated Mini-Songbook
& Listening Guide*

Featuring *O Come, All Ye Faithful* • *Ding Dong Merrily on High*
Good King Wenceslas • *I Heard the Bells on Christmas Day*



O COME, ALL YE FAITHFUL

A Carol of Invitation and Adoration

❖ BRIEF HISTORY

“O Come, All Ye Faithful” is a beloved Christmas carol with roots in 18th-century Europe. Its joyful call invites worshipers to come to Bethlehem and adore Christ the Lord. The hymn’s rich theology and triumphant melody have made it a timeless expression of faith and celebration.

❖ LISTENING PROMPT

As you listen, notice the rising, welcoming energy of the music. Let the chorus lift your heart and imagine yourself joining others in joyful praise and adoration at the manger.

❖ CONNECTION TO THE STORY

In the opening chapter of *Christmas with Henry*, the sound of Christmas bells and sacred music draws Charley outward into the winter night. “O Come, All Ye Faithful” captures that same invitation—calling him beyond the ordinary into the wonder of Bethlehem and beginning his journey toward hope.

FAVORITE LINE

“O come, let us adore Him.”



Ding Dong Merrily on High

A Carol of Bells and Celebration



1. BRIEF HISTORY

“Ding Dong Merrily on High” is a joyous English carol dating back to the 16th century. It celebrates the ringing of bells and the heavenly chorus of praise that heralds the coming of Christ with joy and goodwill.



2. LISTENING PROMPT

Listen for the lively, bell-like rhythm that dances throughout the song. Notice how the music lifts your heart and invites you to join in the chorus of overflowing joy.



3. CONNECTION TO THE STORY

In *Christmas with Henry*, the sound of church bells cuts through the winter darkness and reminds Charley that Christmas joy still exists—even in sorrow. “Ding Dong Merrily on High” carries that same message: the bells of heaven and earth ring together in celebration, calling us to hope, remember, and rejoice.



FAVORITE LINE

*“Gloria, Hosanna
in excelsis!”*



GOOD KING WENCESLAS

A Carol of Compassion and Service



① BRIEF HISTORY

This traditional carol tells the story of a noble ruler who sets aside comfort and goes out into the harsh winter to bring aid to someone in need. It has long been a cherished reminder that true greatness is shown in compassion and selfless service.



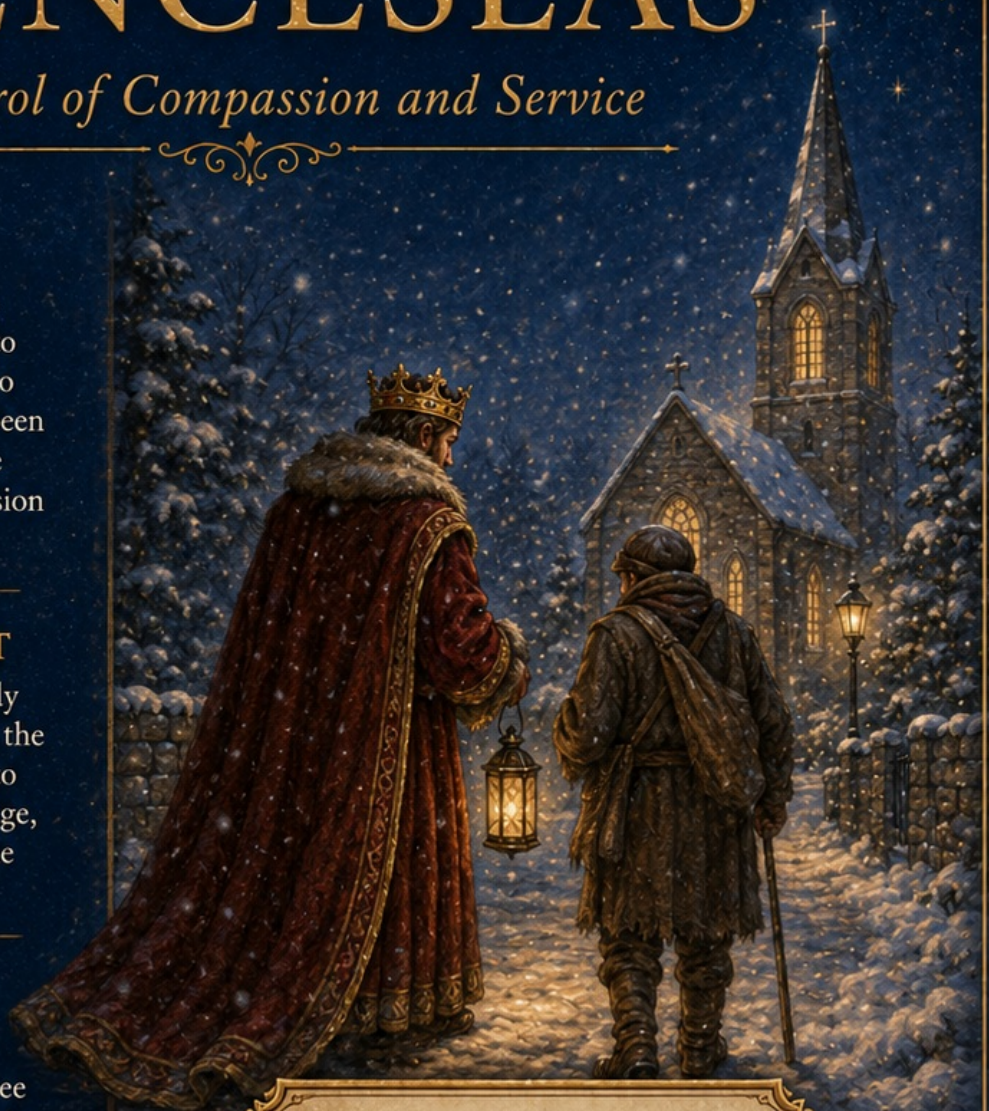
② LISTENING PROMPT

As you listen, notice the steady marching rhythm that carries the story forward. Pay attention to the themes of kindness, courage, and practical charity that shine through every verse.



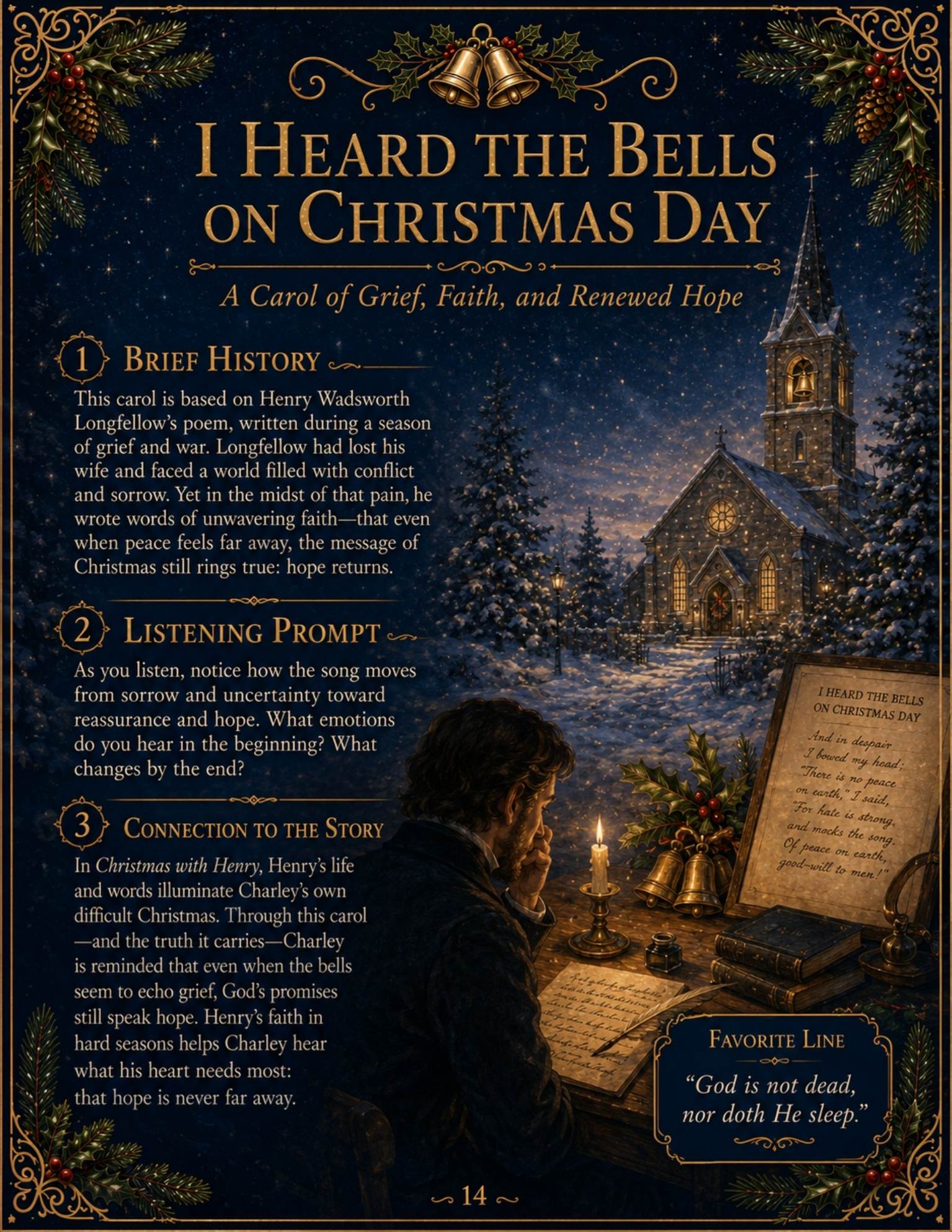
③ CONNECTION TO THE STORY

In *Christmas with Henry*, we see how quiet companionship can be a gift. Just as the good king walks beside the poor man through the cold and dark, Henry's presence and care bring hope and help in ways that are simple, steady, and deeply meaningful.



— FAVORITE LINE —

*“Ye who now
will bless the poor.”*



I HEARD THE BELLS ON CHRISTMAS DAY

A Carol of Grief, Faith, and Renewed Hope

1 BRIEF HISTORY

This carol is based on Henry Wadsworth Longfellow's poem, written during a season of grief and war. Longfellow had lost his wife and faced a world filled with conflict and sorrow. Yet in the midst of that pain, he wrote words of unwavering faith—that even when peace feels far away, the message of Christmas still rings true: hope returns.

2 LISTENING PROMPT

As you listen, notice how the song moves from sorrow and uncertainty toward reassurance and hope. What emotions do you hear in the beginning? What changes by the end?

3 CONNECTION TO THE STORY

In *Christmas with Henry*, Henry's life and words illuminate Charley's own difficult Christmas. Through this carol—and the truth it carries—Charley is reminded that even when the bells seem to echo grief, God's promises still speak hope. Henry's faith in hard seasons helps Charley hear what his heart needs most: that hope is never far away.

FAVORITE LINE

*"God is not dead,
nor doth He sleep."*