

OPEN AFTER READING



GATHER THE CLUES

As you reread Christmas with Henry, look for each clue below.

Check the box when you find it!

BOWDOIN

Henry mentions his college years.

☐

SIX CHILDREN

His family life left deep marks on his heart.

☐

LANGUAGES

He loved words, translation, and learning languages.

☐

THE FIRE

A household tragedy scarred his face and changed his life.

☐

HARVARD

He later taught as a professor.

☐

CHARLES AT WAR

His son went to war and was badly wounded.

☐

MARY

His first wife died young.

☐

POETRY

Lines of verse accompany his counsel.

☐

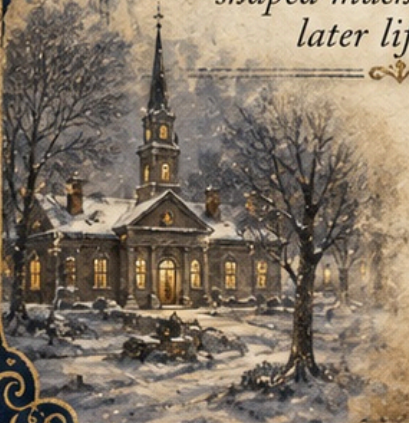
FRANCES

His second great love shaped much of his later life.

☐

CHRISTMAS BELLS

The bells become the key to hope.

☐

Can you guess Henry's identity before the final page?

The Man Behind the Clues

Without revealing his full name, let's trace the life of the man our story follows—a scholar, teacher, writer, and dreamer whose experiences shaped the heart of *Christmas with Henry*.



YOUNG SCHOLAR

Hungry for knowledge, he immersed himself in studies, traveled far and wide, and learned many languages.



BELOVED HUSBAND

He first married Mary, his early love and constant companion. After her death, he found love again with Frances.



PROFESSOR

He devoted his life to teaching, inspiring young minds and shaping generations of students.



POET

His pen gave life to verses that captured wonder, faith, and the beauty of everyday moments.



FATHER

He and his wives were blessed with six children, filling their home with laughter, stories, and deep affection.



SUFFERING

A devastating fire destroyed much of what he owned. Personal grief and loss followed in the years that came.



CHRISTMAS HOPE

On a cold Christmas Eve, the sound of bells drifting through the air stirred his heart and sparked a poem that would bring hope to many in a dark season.

FINAL GUESS

I think Henry is _____.



Who Was Henry?

The Answer Revealed

*God is
not dead,
nor does
He sleep.*

NAME

Henry Wadsworth Longfellow

KNOWN FOR



Poet, professor, translator,
and one of America's most
beloved literary voices.

WHY HE MATTERS IN THE NOVEL



His life of love, sorrow, faith,
and endurance echoes Charley's
own dark Christmas season
and gives the story its final,
redemptive mystery.

MOST FAMOUS CHRISTMAS CONNECTION



His poem "I Heard the Bells
on Christmas Day" was born
from grief, war, and the
stubborn return of hope.

*"Listen, my children,
and you shall hear..."*