

## Poem

### Washington Crossing the Delaware by David Shulman

A hard, howling, tossing water scene.  
 Strong tide was washing hero clean.  
 "How cold!" Weather stings as in anger.  
 O Silent night shows war ace danger!  
 The cold waters swashing on in rage.  
 Redcoats warn slow his hint engage.  
 When star general's action wish'd "Go!"  
 He saw his ragged continentals row.  
 Ah, he stands – sailor crew went going.  
 And so this general watches rowing.  
 He hastens – winter again grows cold.  
 A wet crew gain Hessian stronghold.  
 George can't lose war with's hands in;  
 He's astern – so go alight, crew, and win!

Personal Reaction: His poem is written in a easy way to imagine the moment of it. Because there are many details, this particular moment pop up in my head like picture that's been captured. This shows its rough conditions and their determination and resolution of winning in this battle and their definite idea that they'll overcome the dangers.

Rules and Restraints: In this case, a 14-line rhyming sonnet in which each lines have end rhyme with the line that's afterward. Scene>Clean, Anger>Danger, Rage>Engage, Go>Row, Going>Rowing, Cold>StrongHold, and Hands in>And win. Like this author put rhymes into the each of end lines so the entire flow poem flew even more smoother. Also according to the research I did, author made every line to anagram of the title.

Research: This poem is written based on the painting that has exactly the same name its poem. Both painting, and poem is about George Washington's crossing of the Delaware River, which occurred on the night of December 25–26, 1776, during the American Revolutionary War. It's one of well-known historical events, that had been turned into poem, painting, and even the book.

Historical facts: Washington's crossing of the Delaware on December 25, 1776, resulted in a stunning American victory. Continental forces crossed the icy river and captured nearly 1,000 surprised Hessians at the Trenton outpost. The daring strike came during a low point in the conflict for the Americans. They had suffered of losses on the battlefield and faced the real prospect of a total collapse of their army. This victory and a second success at Princeton allowed Washington to reestablish an American presence in New Jersey, which had been completely under British control, and rally at least some degree of public support for the patriot cause, encourage re-enlistments, and restore confidence in Washington's leadership.

Bibliography:

Greenwood, John. *The Revolutionary Services of John Greenwood: A Young Patriot in the American Revolution*, Lexington, Kentucky: Westvaco Corporation, 1981.

The personal recollections of a veteran of the Revolutionary War at the Trenton campaign written in 1809 and published in 1981.

Silverman, Sharon Hernes. "The Boat Ride That Changed America: Washington Crossing Historic Park," *Pennsylvania Heritage* 25 (1999), 12-21.

**Painting**  
**Washington Crossing the Delaware**  
by David Shulman



Personal Reaction: The poem and the painting gives the same impression and details; cold water, their stronghold, and even their resolution as a person who combating- by their facial expression. When I first saw this the first thing that came into my mind was that the use of darkness and brightness. I think author using both brightness and darkness for representing moment of the war or before the war is pretty significant, because it shows dark and fierce of battle(darkness) but also their strong determination of wining from this war(brightness), the sunlight that penetrated at the end of the ocean. Also the drastic waves that's everywhere on the painting describes crisis or difficulties that they already overcame with or still have to face with.

Rules and Restraints: The painting has artistic composition; unnaturally bright sky, while his face catches the upcoming sun. And the colors consist if mostly dark tones, as is to be expected at dawn, but there are reed highlights repeated throughout the painting. The people in the boat represent a cross-section of American colonies, including a man in a Scottish bonnet and a man of Africa descent facing backward next to each other in the front.

Research: *Washington Crossing the Delaware* is an 1851 oil-on-canvas painting by the German American artist Emanuel Gottlieb Leutze. It commemorates General George Washington's crossing of the Delaware River on the night of December 25–26, 1776, during the American Revolutionary

War. That action was the first move in a surprise attack against the Hessian forces at Trenton, New Jersey, in the Battle of Trenton on the morning of December 26.

Bibliography:

Full-text of “The painting *Washington Crossing the Delaware* on display in the Great Hall” at the Metropolitan Museum of Art

Introduction to *Washington's Crossing* by David Hackett Fischer at the Oxford University Press blog.