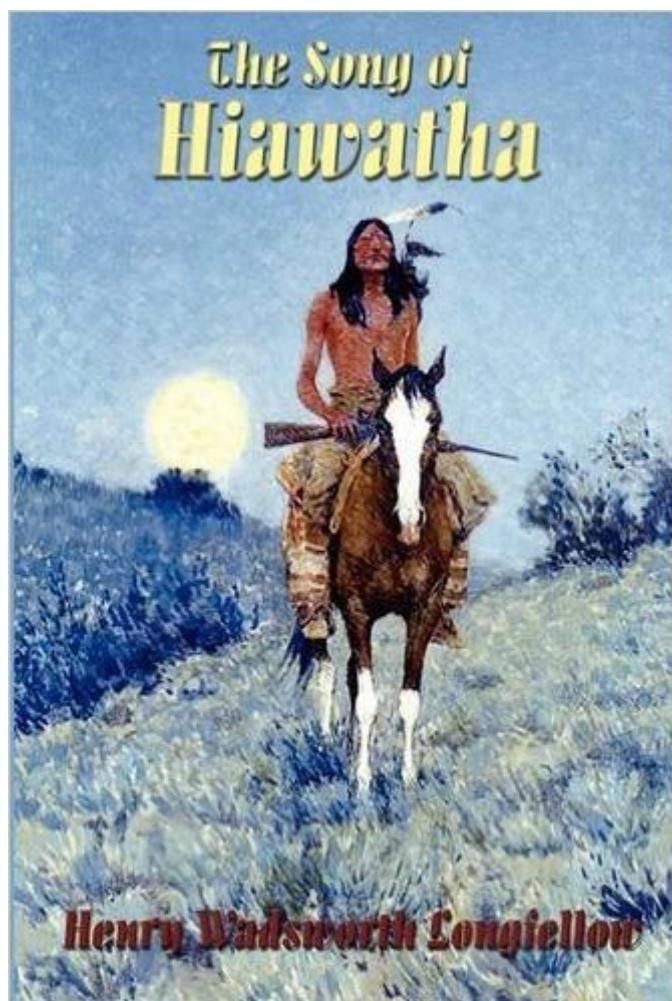


The book was found

The Song Of Hiawatha



Synopsis

Return to the shores of Gitche Gumee and sing the Song of Hiawatha Out of childhood into manhood Now had grown my Hiawatha, Skilled in all the craft of hunters, Learned in all the lore of old men, In all youthful sports and pastimes, In all manly arts and labors. Swift of foot was Hiawatha; He could shoot an arrow from him, And run forward with such fleetness, That the arrow fell behind him! Strong of arm was Hiawatha; He could shoot ten arrows upward, Shoot them with such strength and swiftness, That the tenth had left the bow-string Ere the first to earth had fallen!--Longfellow

Book Information

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Average Customer Review: 4.4 out of 5 starsÂ See all reviewsÂ (53 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #1,557,085 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #109 inÂ Books > Literature & Fiction > Poetry > Regional & Cultural > United States > Native American #1333 inÂ Books > Literature & Fiction > United States > Classics #1358 inÂ Books > Literature & Fiction > United States > Native American

Customer Reviews

Why would I review a classic like Hiawatha? Well, I came in to find a quote for a book I'm writing. In one scene, my protagonist is speaking of Lake Superior, aka Gitche Gamee. So, I was happy to find Hiawatha as a freebie on Kindle, found the section I needed...then I kept reading. And cried. This work is so beautiful, so evocative. I grew up on the shore of Gitche Gamee myself (in Northern Wisconsin). Longfellow's poetry captured the wild beauty of the land and the Great Lake. He found the soul of the land and its early inhabitants, and passed that soul onto his readers. The "Peace Pipe" scene at the beginning enchanted me. This poetry is magical.

"The Song of Hiawatha" is the best book I have ever been exposed to. Every time I hear the wonderful rhyme of Henry Wadsworth Longfellow, I begin to think of what this land was like before

the Europeans conquered it. It is a wonderful tale of peace between nations and a great book to read to children.

I liked this piece quite a bit. Hiawatha was loosely based on a real Indian chief of the 1500's. Walt Disney has done this poem a great disservice by making it possibly one of his silliest characters ever. Longfellow had read a history of Hiawatha and then wrote a grand poem. It surprised me but this poem really is in the stream of Beowulf and Gilgamesh. This poem does not have the passion I found in Beowulf and Gilgamesh, but it reminds me of what it was like to live on this continent before the Europeans arrived, and long afterwards. The power of nature through its spiritual and apparent manifestations is key. In this poem all nature talks. Ben

Poor Hiawatha! For years, this great American poem of the 19th century has been relegated to the children's poetry shelves, where it lies languishing, despite several fine picture book editions of parts of it. Parodied almost upon publication, notably by Lewis Carroll, its heavy beat, taken from a Finnish epic, has been thought of as archsoporific. To use Shaw's phrase for late Ibsen drama, it has to be really DONE. And it is in this superb, unabridged recording. The producers and reader William Hootkins have trusted the poem itself, and Longfellow's intentions, not the parodists. The result? The restoration of an American classic, one of the first truly populist works in the canon of American poetry. The richness of the language and the stirring images, especially of Hiawatha and Mudgiweis, are there to be revelled in. Should you ask me, is it worth it, is this reading worth the effort, I should say, Do but listen, do but stop and hear the heartbeats! Excellent, and very much needed!

This abridged version from Handprint Books offers superb illustrations by Margaret Early "wed to the incomparable free verse poetry of Longfellow. Each two-page spread presents a Chapter heading, the poem and a brief linking text which unites the selections which facilitate the comprehension and narrative continuity of a young reader. On the opposing page is a marvelous depiction of the scene or tone of the written words across from it. The book concludes with an Historical Note by the illustrator. A true marriage of the classical beauty of Longfellow tone poems with breathtaking artistic renderings. A marvelous introduction to the complete tale of a Native American warrior hero.

Though this is written in poem format, it is indeed a story. It is a beautiful story that reveals the glory

of pre-European involvement in the Americas, specifically the north mid-west. Like many Americans, I had heard the name Hiawatha, and Minnehaha but to understand who they were and why they are important you should read this book. This book takes us through a somewhat shallow version of the spiritual side of the native tribes of the North American Continent. But for an outsider like me, it was rich indeed! I learned 100 times more than I knew about native culture after reading this book. I recommend it for any American who wants to understand the natives better.

My grandmother was a school teacher and firmly believed that books were the redemption of all children. I was treated to my first library card at age three and was reading the newspaper at age five. Hiawatha was a favorite of my gramma and therefore my siblings and I were constantly exposed to its wonderful musical cadence, as she recited it for us. When I received the book I was amazed to find the song much longer than I had thought, and delighted to be able to bring it to my grandchildren. I will read it to them often and with many memories to share. Gramma always started with the verse beginning "On the shores of Gitche Gumee, by the shining Big-Sea-Water stood the wigwam of Noko'mis, daughter of the moon Niko'mis", so I was mostly unaware of the story preceding this part of the story. I am enamored with the story and the wonderful work of Henry Wadsworth Longfellow and I highly recommend this book to one and all. It's a great story, a beautiful song with a great rhythm. The book itself is well constructed, easy to read and the cover picture says a lot. Yes, read it, you will like it. The Song of Hiawatha

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