

John Keats
Pages 728-734

About the Author

1. What is his family background?
2. In what field was Keats apprenticed?
3. What did he decide to pursue instead of medicine?
4. Why did he avoid a friendship with Shelley?
5. Of what did Keats become ill?



“When I Have Fears that I May Cease to Be”

1. Define sonnet.
2. Define theme.
3. The speaker fears that what will happen before he becomes a great poet?
4. What is “gleaning”? What does “teeming” mean? What might it mean to glean a teeming brain?
5. What three things does the speaker fear he will not be able to do before he dies?
6. In lines 5-8, what does the speaker fear he will not be able to do?
7. Whom does the speaker address in this poem?
8. What is he afraid will happen with this person?
9. On what shores does he stand?
10. What happens to love and fame?
11. What is the topic of each quatrain and each couplet?
12. What is the theme of this poem?

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13. How does reflecting on death change the speaker's desires for fame as a writer and for continuation of his "unreflecting love"?



"Ode on a Grecian Urn"

1. Define apostrophe.
2. Define paradox.
3. What does stanza 1 describe?
4. What is said about heard and unheard melodies?
5. Why might this be so?
6. What is true of the boughs from the first line of stanza 3 that is not true of boughs in real life?
7. What similarity do the boughs, the melody, and the love that are described in stanza 3 have?
8. What can the bold lover never do?
9. What will his beloved never do?
10. What will happen to people but not the urn?
11. What does the urn say to man?
12. In what sense might beauty be truth and truth be beauty?
13. What objects or figures are addressed?
14. What paradoxes are in this poem?
15. Compare Keats "Ode . . ." with "When I Fears . . ." Is there a common theme?
Explain.