John Keats

Pages 728-734

About the Author

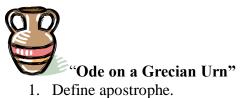
- 1. What is his family background?
- 2. In what field was Keats apprenticed?
- 3. What did he decide to pursue instead of medicine?
- 4. Why did he avoid a friendship with Shelley?
- 5. Of what did Keats become ill?



- "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?

13. How does reflecting on death change the speaker's desires for fame as a writer

and for continuation of his "unreflecting love"?



- 1. Define apositopin
- 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.