

Name:
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"Ode on a Grecian Urn" by John Keats

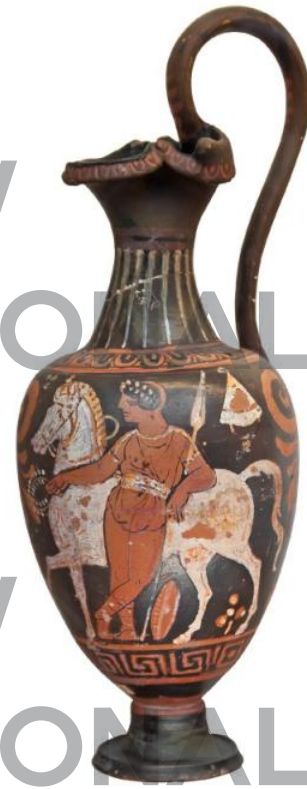
Thou still unravish'd bride of quietness,
Thou foster-child of silence and slow time,
Sylvan historian, who canst thus express
A flowery tale more sweetly than our rhyme:
What leaf-fring'd legend haunts about thy shape
Of deities or mortals, or of both,
In **Tempe** or the dales of **Arcady**?
What men or gods are these? What maidens loth?
What mad pursuit? What struggle to escape?
What pipes and **timbrels**? What wild ecstasy?

Heard melodies are sweet, but those unheard
Are sweeter; therefore, ye soft pipes, play on;
Not to the sensual ear, but, more endear'd,
Pipe to the spirit **ditties** of no tone:
Fair youth, beneath the trees, thou canst not leave
Thy song, nor ever can those trees be bare;
Bold Lover, never, never canst thou kiss,
Though winning near the goal yet, do not grieve;
She cannot fade, though thou hast not thy bliss,
For ever wilt thou love, and she be fair!

Ah, happy, happy **boughs**! that cannot shed
Your leaves, nor ever bid the Spring adieu;
And, happy melodist, unwearied,
For ever piping songs for ever new;
More happy love! more happy, happy love!
For ever warm and still to be enjoy'd,
For ever panting, and for ever young;
All breathing human passion far above,
That leaves a heart high-sorrowful and **cloy'd**,
A burning forehead, and a parching tongue.

Who are these coming to the sacrifice?
To what green altar, O mysterious priest,
Lead'st thou that **heifer** lowing at the skies,
And all her silken flanks with garlands **drest**?
What little town by river or sea shore,
Or mountain-built with peaceful citadel,
Is emptied of this folk, this **pious** morn?
And, little town, thy streets for evermore
Will silent be; and not a soul to tell
Why thou art desolate, can e'er return.

O Attic shape! Fair attitude! with **brede**
Of marble men and maidens **overwrought**,
With forest branches and the trodden weed;
Thou, silent form, dost tease us out of thought
As doth eternity: Cold **Pastoral**!
When old age shall this generation waste,
Thou shalt remain, in midst of other **woe**
Than ours, a friend to man, to whom thou say'st,
"Beauty is truth, truth beauty,—that is all
Ye know on earth, and all ye need to know."



sylvan: pleasantly rural

Tempe: a valley in Greece known for its pastoral lands of great beauty

Arcady: refers to the ancient Greek state of Arcadia

timbrels: a tambourine or similar instrument

ditty: a short, simple song

bough: a main branch of a tree

cloy: sickened and weary

heifer: a young female cow that has not borne a calf

drest: older version of the word *dressed*

pious: virtuous or religious

brede: something braided, embroidered, or entwined

overwrought: too elaborate in design or construction

pastoral: peaceful, spiritual countryside or farmland

woe: troublesome situation or distress

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Poetry Analysis
“Ode on a Grecian Urn” by John Keats

1. Who is the speaker of the poem and what do you know about them?

PREVIEW

2. How does the speaker describe the urn in the first four lines of the poem?

3. What imagery does the poet use? What images are depicted on the urn?

PREVIEW

4. Explain the meaning of the following lines? What scenes are being depicted?

*Fair youth, beneath the trees, thou canst not leave
Thy song, nor ever can those trees be bare;
Bold Lover, never, never canst thou kiss,
Though winning near the goal yet, do not grieve;
She cannot fade, though thou hast not thy bliss,
For ever wilt thou love, and she be fair!*

PREVIEW

5. Why does Keats repeat the word “happy” in stanza 3?

PREVIEW

6. What is the mood of stanza 4? Provide textual evidence to support your answer.

7. What is different about the last stanza?

8. Why does the speaker address the urn as "Cold Pastoral"?

9. "*Beauty is truth, truth beauty,—that is all ye know on earth, and all ye need to know.*"
Who is the implied speaker of these lines? What does it mean?

10. What is the poem's structure? How does it impact the poem?

11. What message do you think Keats is sending about art?

12. What is the overall tone of the poem? Provide textual evidence to support your answer.

13. How does the poem make you feel? Explain.

14. What examples of literary devices can you find in the poem? List at least two.

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Write your own ode!

An ode is a lyrical poem that expresses praise, glorification, or tribute. Decide what you are going to write about. What is something or someone you really appreciate? It can be living or not... a pet, a time of day, furniture, etc. Create a list below to brainstorm ideas.

I am grateful for...	Reasons why

Your ode can have the rhyme scheme of your choice and you can choose from the following two structures: a) minimum of 2 stanzas with 10 lines each or b) minimum of 4 stanzas with 4 lines each.

All poems are filled with imagery and figurative language, so make sure you use both in your poem!

You must write a rough draft and a final draft. For your final draft, you will NEATLY handwrite your poem or type it on a blank 8.5 x11 piece of paper. You will then decorate the page with colored illustrations that are relevant to your poem. Another option is: cut out the shape of the object you chose to honor on a colored piece of paper; then, write your poem on the cut out design.

Requirements:

- The honoree of your ode is stated and obvious to readers
- You've included at least three different reasons why you wish to celebrate the topic of your ode
- You have an organized structure to your poem
- Your poem contains a rhyme scheme
- You use a minimum of one example of figurative language
- You write a rough draft before completing a final copy
- You neatly execute a final draft of your poem
- Your final copy includes at least one illustration relevant to your theme

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Rough Draft Ode

PREVIEW

NOT FOR EDUCATIONAL USE

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