



lingoda

Keats

SPEAKING

LEVEL
Advanced

NUMBER
C1_1026S_EN

LANGUAGE
English






Goals

- Can read, understand and recall facts from a text about John Keats and his work.
- Can discuss the elements of his work which made him successful and defend my views on whether talents are born or learnt.





Great art regularly springs from great misfortune. **Agony** is, in some cases, essential to the creation of a **masterpiece**. Without such experiences, the resulting work would be meaningless.



Romantic poets

**Are you familiar with
any of the works of
the Romantic poets?**

Shelley

Coleridge

Byron

Wordsworth

Blake



19th century England

Life in England in the 1800s was bleak, even for those in the middle and upper classes. What challenges would Keats have faced when growing up?



19th century England

Compare these answers with your own. Discuss any you didn't think of with your teacher.

lack of equal or
widespread
access to
education

poor health

lack of mobility

little money to
spare



Keats' background

John Keats was an English Romantic poet, born in 1795 in London. Together with Blake, Wordsworth, Coleridge, Byron, and Shelley, Keats is seen today as one of the most important Romantic poets writing at the turn of the 19th century.

Keats' short life was filled with misfortune. Both of his parents died when he was young, leaving him in the care of a guardian with little in the way of finances. Keats trained as an **apothecary**, which would have allowed him to work as a physician and surgeon, but despite his apparent aptitude for the position and the security and financial stability it would offer, he had little interest in pursuing this path.



Keats' background

He suffered from depression and the feeling that he may never achieve his ambition of becoming a poet. Shortly after receiving his practising licence, Keats made his true intentions clear, spending increasingly more time on his writing and less on his medical career. As he began to **make a name for himself**, his brother died of tuberculosis. As Keats himself was weak at that time, it is likely that this is when he **contracted** it himself, although he lived a while longer. He died in 1821, at the young age of 25.



Keats' background



Keats is most famous for the writing style in his **Odes**; these are intimate pieces of writing which express the writer's private feelings. Rather than giving a general description of the world, an ode usually addresses a person, or even an object, making considerable use of **imagery** and **metaphor**.



Keats' background



Keats held the belief that poetry should come naturally and cannot be learned. However, many critics argue that his earlier poems clearly show that he was still finding his way in his new trade. Keats' early poems have been described as being **vague** and dull. He may have had the **innate** aptitude for creating verse that cannot be taught, but nonetheless, Keats' talent needed **refinement**. It was only in his later, dying years that Keats proved himself to have truly **honed** his craft.



Vocabulary

vague

apothecary

refinement

metaphor

innate

hone



Talent: learned or born with it?

Keats believed that the art of writing poetry cannot be learned. Do you agree or disagree? Why?



Talent: learned or born with it?

Think of some examples of other skills, which can be learned, and talents, which cannot. Discuss with your group or your teacher, using the framework below as an example.



I think that a sense of rhythm is something you either have or don't have.

I completely agree. Rhythm is a feeling rather than something which can be taught and cannot be understood.



I disagree. It's like anything else; if I study rhythm, I will begin to understand it and understand the feeling. When I understand it, I can use it...



From great misfortune comes great art

Many great artists and literary figures have experienced tragedy in their past. Can great art only come from suffering? Can you think of others who had a similar background to Keats?



Get ready to listen



The next few slides will focus on training your listening comprehension



Put the text you have just heard in order

1

2

3

4

A

fortune but also immortality. Keats sought both of these. His works were published while he was alive, but the reception was harsh and often...

B

critical. Keats died believing that he had left no mark on the literary landscape. While he died thinking he had been unsuccessful in his attempt at art, we know this to be quite the opposite today.

C

While Keats is now regarded as being very important in the Romantic movement, during his lifetime, his work was not recognised as such. He wrote about...

D

fame himself, in his poem *On Fame (Fame, like a wayward girl)*. The poem compares man's want for fame with his lust for a beautiful woman. It could be interpreted in two ways: either that fame comes more easily when one does not seek it, or that fame brings not only...



Posthumous fame

Keats never achieved fame in his lifetime, although he wanted to be known and respected for his poetry.

Do you think he would be happy about the way his work is received today?
How would you feel if your life's work was not recognised until after your death?





Debate: fame

Although Keats wanted recognition, the realities of fame can be more than many people bargain for.
Was Keats' lack of recognition a blessing in disguise?



1

Decide whether you are **for** or **against** the statement above.



Debate: fame

Although Keats wanted recognition, the realities of fame can be more than many people bargain for.
Was Keats' lack of recognition a blessing in disguise?



1

Decide whether you are **for** or **against** the statement above. Your teacher will take the opposite side.



2

Create your arguments. Think of examples of when fame and/or recognition has improved or deteriorated the lives of those involved. Would Keats' poetry have suffered in either situation?



Debate: fame

Although Keats wanted recognition, the realities of fame can be more than many people bargain for.
Was Keats' lack of recognition a blessing in disguise?



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3

Using the arguments you have prepared, discuss with your teacher or group, then decide which side had the strongest arguments.



Warm down

Considering what you have discussed, what do you think made Keats' work unique when compared to other writers?



Reflect on the lesson

Take a moment to review any new **vocabulary, phrases, language structures** or **grammar points** you have come across for the first time in this lesson.

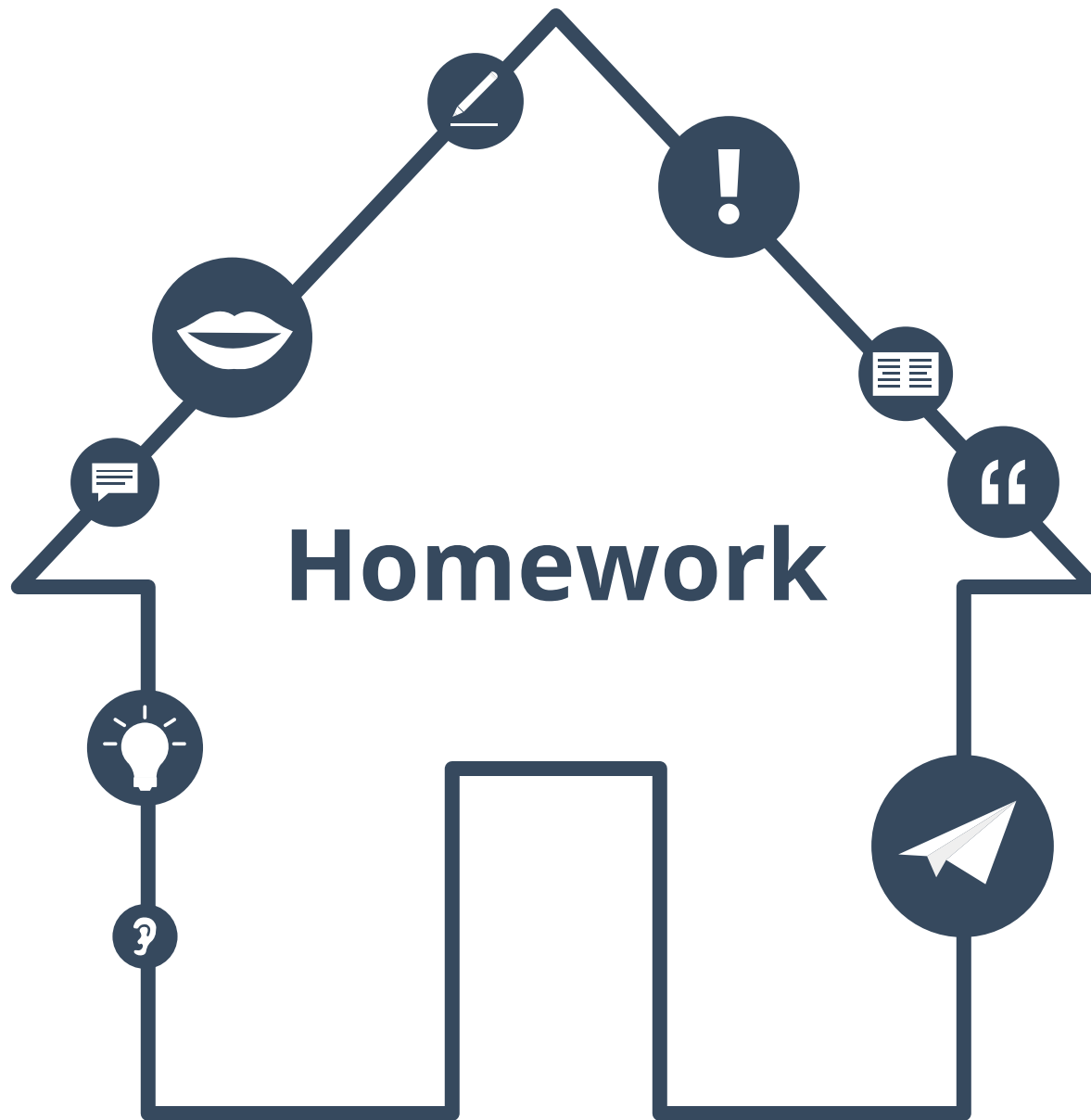
Review them with your teacher one more time to make sure you don't forget!





Transcription

While Keats is now regarded as being very important in the Romantic movement, during his lifetime, his work was not recognised as such. He wrote about fame himself, in his poem *On Fame (Fame, like a wayward girl)*. The poem compares man's desire for fame with his lust for a beautiful woman. It could be interpreted in two ways: either that fame comes more easily when one does not seek it, or that fame brings not only fortune but also immortality. Keats sought both of these. His works were published while he was alive, but the reception was harsh and often critical. Keats died believing that he had left no mark on the literary landscape. While he died thinking he had been unsuccessful in his attempt at art, we know this to be quite the opposite today.





Writing activity

Write about another artist (writer, painter, composer) whose work was not recognised until after their death. Was their life similarly influenced by misfortune?

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<input type="radio"/>	...was a prolific...who went unrecognised...
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Vocabulary review

Create flashcards to practise the new vocabulary learned in this lesson.





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