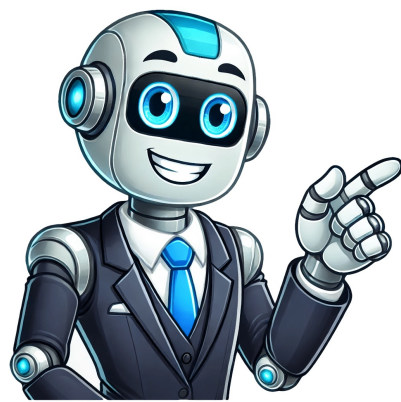


Click Here



The ode is literally a series of images which are described and reflected upon. The Grecian urn symbolises an important paradox for Keats: it is a work of applied art (urns being associated with death), silent, motionless and made out of cold materials, yet at the same time it moves him with its vitality and its imaginative depictions of music, passion and sacrifice. It is a symbol of beauty and of immortality, whilst at the same time reminding human beings of just how brief their own life and passions are in comparison. The urn itself is referred to in a series of images: As a bride of quietness A child of silence and .. Time As a teller of pastoral stories A shapely yet silent tease A friend to humanity As a wise sooth-sayer.The dominant image of the urn in the final stanza is as a Cold Pastoral. The phrase suggests that although its beauty cannot fade, it cannot be part of the warmth and emotional intensity which comes from being human. Then there are the images depicted on the surface of the urn and it is these which are offered for description and contemplation. These images undoubtedly tell a story, but at this distance in time we cannot know exactly what the story is. Instead the urn and its decorations now stand for an ideal of artistic beauty. The images are still bright and clear but the whole civilization that produced it has passed away and so the questions which Keats poses about it can have no definitive answers. The urns images are permanent and not subject to the death and decay that beset human beings. The urn is outside time and therefore avoids the fading beauty and destruction to which human lives are inevitably leading. The images suggest both the beauty of art and also its distance from everyday reality. The trees on the urn will never shed their leaves. The people depicted will never lose their sense of vitality; the lovers will always be young and passionate. The fourth stanza and its image of the sacrifice prompts Keats to ask unanswerable questions about the town from which the people have come a town now devoid of its inhabitants. Because life on the urns surface is frozen, the little town will never have empty, silent streets. The image may be beautiful but its implications have darker overtones. The urn is immortal but reminds us of our own mortality. Investigating imagery and symbolism in Ode on a Grecian Urn Some readers have suggested that the urn symbolises both the beauty of perfection on the one hand and cold sterility on the other. Do you agree with this assessment? Analyse the effect of the images Keats uses to convey the story of each scene on the urn. Do the images suggest that art is good and that life is bad or is their effect more complex than this? Investigate the opening image of the urn as a bride. How many associations does this word have? Is Keats exploiting both the idea of fruitfulness as well as the possible sterility of non-consummation? Keats dwells in this poem on the pleasure and pain of art. In stanza 4 the beautiful procession is made permanent by the artists skill, so the people cannot return to a town now made eternally desolate by their absence. The image also reminds us that the real people who inspired the image are now dead in the remote past. Because art fixes things and seems to make them eternal, it also reminds us that we have to live in a world of inevitable decay. Keats is also aware that, although the urns imagery is full of energy in its depiction of dance and erotic pursuit, it remains itself a still unravishd bride of quietness, calmly transcending the excitement conveyed by its surface images. In contemplating the timelessness of pictorial art, Keats is also conscious that poetry works differently from pictures. An image can be seen and comprehended in an instant; but the poet has to construct a narrative of events that happen in a sequence. The poems speaker therefore imagines a story, even though it is one that the urns artist has had to freeze in time: Fair youth, beneath the trees, thou canst not leaveThy song, nor ever can those trees be bare. Keats was particularly moved by the dynamic nature of the images on the urn. His friend Haydon was similarly impressed by this sort of art, writing in his diary: the great principle of composition in Painting is to represent the event, doing and not doneThe moment a thing is done in Painting half the interest is gone; a power of exciting attention depends upon the suspense we keep the mind in regarding the past and future. Keats saw Haydons principle in the images on the urn: the coexistence of excitement and frozen time. It was this which made the object the perfect embodiment of the classical ideal (see Aristotles ideas on the golden mean.) What also fascinated Keats was the difference in viewpoint between the people depicted on the urn and that of the viewer. For instance in stanza 4 the mysteriously moving group fails to see the pathos of its own situation. No one in this group seems remotely aware that, for the group to exist, the town from which they have come has had to be emptied: the procession is beautiful but the town left behind is desolate. The poems final lines are famous but have also been much discussed and have caused much critical disagreement. One reason for this is that there is disagreement about the punctuation of lines. In the volume of poems that Keats published in 1820, they were presented as follows: Beauty is truth, truth beauty, that is allYe know on earth, and all ye need to know. The confusion arises from the fact that there are no quotation marks in the version printed in Annals of the Fine Arts later in the same year or in the transcripts of the poem made by Keats friends. This has caused critics to disagree as to whether the urn speaks the whole two lines or whether the urn says just: Beauty is truth, truth beauty and the rest is spoken by the poems speaker. And is the ye in the last line addressed to the speaker, to the readers, to the urn or to the figures on the urn? There has also been dispute about what all ye know means. Is it that we are meant to believe that beauty is truth is a profound philosophical statement or a simplification of something very mysterious (i.e. all that we/ye are capable of understanding)? It certainly seems to be a very definite and emphatic statement - which concludes a highly indeterminate poem that dwells on mystery rather than simply defined truths!Investigating themes in Ode on a Grecian Urn How does the urn reflect Keats longing for permanence in a world of change? What does this poem suggest about the role of art? What evidence is there that, in Ode to a Grecian Urn, Keats is meditating on what happens when one creative imagination interacts with another? How does the poem treat the theme of time? In what ways does the urn link Keats present with the classical past? To represent a thing or idea by something else through an association of ideas.A figure of speech wherein an apparently contradictory set of ideas is presented as being, in fact, part of the same truth. Page 2 John Keats, selected poems Contents The context of John Keats' poetrySelected poems of John Keats: Synopses and commentariesBright Star! Would I were steadfast as thouThe Eve of St AgnesHush, hush! 'read softly! hush, hush, my dear!Isabella; or The Pot of BasilLa Belle Dame Sans MerciLamiaLines to Fanny (What can I do to drive away)O Solitude, if I must with thee dwellOde on a Grecian UrnOde on IndolenceOde to a NightingaleOde to AutumnOde to MelancholyOde to PsycheOn First Looking Into Chapmans HomerOn Seeing the Elgin MarblesOn the SeaSleep and PoetryTimes sea hath been five years at its slow ebbTo Ailsa RockTo Leigh HuntTo Mrs Reynoldss CatTo My BrothersTo SleepWhen I have fears that I may cease to beThemes in selected Poems of John KeatsCritical approaches to KeatsApproaching essays and exams on KeatsJohn Keats: Resources and further reading Posted in category: Line-by-LineIn this article, you will read a line-by-line paraphrasing, analysis and summary of the poem Ode on a Grecian Urn by John Keats. By writing this article, I intend to help English literature students understand the poem better and more conveniently. I also intend to help them unlock their critical thinking by looking at a poem from perspectives other than theirs. I hope this article serves its purpose. I will try producing articles on this template for other famous poems often found in the syllabuses of Indian universities. All the best!Lets begin with the first stanza of the poem:Thou still unravishd 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-fringd 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?John Keatss Ode on a Grecian Urn begins with invoking the urn as an eternal, enigmatic presence. The poet sets the tone for a meditative journey, intertwining timeless beauty with the transient reality of human existence.Line-by-Line ExplanationThou still unravishd bride of quietnessKeats addresses the urn as a bride of quietness, an eternal and untouched entity symbolising purity and permanence. The word still conveys dual meanings: both as motionless and as enduring through time. The bride metaphor evokes intimacy and reverence but hints at an incomplete consummation, underscoring the urns untouched and mysterious nature.Thou foster-child of silence and slow timeThe urn is described as a foster-child, implying it is not born of time or silence but nurtured by them. This suggests the urns creation lies within human artistry, yet its preservation and significance transcend temporal constraints. The phrase slow time evokes historys measured and deliberate passage, contrasting sharply with the fleeting nature of human lives.Sylvan historian, who canst thus express / A flowery tale more sweetly than our rhyme:The urn is personified as a Sylvan historian, a chronicler of pastoral and mythological stories. Its depiction of nature (sylvan) and its ability to narrate visually (express) surpasses poetrys capacity to do so through words. Keats humbly acknowledges the superiority of visual art in evoking timeless beauty and mystery. The flowery tale implies that the urn encapsulates intricate, vivid scenesmore enchanting and enduring than transient human expression.What leaf-fringd legend haunts about thy shape / Of deities or mortals, or of bothKeats marvels at the intricate designs etched on the urn, asking what mythical stories are woven into its surface. The leaf-fringd detail suggests a natural frame, linking the art to a pastoral and idyllic world. By mentioning deities or mortals, or of both, the poet reflects on the blending of divine and human realms, a hallmark of Greek mythology. The term haunts conveys both mystery and the enduring nature of the legends.In Tempe or the dales of Arcady?Tempe and Arcadia are references to idealised settings in Greek mythology. Tempe, a valley in Thessaly, was considered a place of sublime beauty, while Arcadia symbolised a pastoral utopia untouched by modern civilisation. By invoking these locations, Keats situates the urn in a mythical, timeless world that inspires wonder and reverence.What men or gods are these? What maidens loth?The poet poses a series of questions about the figures depicted on the urn. The juxtaposition of men and gods reflects the ambiguity of the artwork, which intertwines mortal and divine. The phrase maidens loth suggests an implied narrative of pursuit, resistance, or a ritualistic drama, reinforcing the themes of mystery and untold stories.What mad pursuit? What struggle to escape? / What pipes and timbrels? What wild ecstasy?These rapid, unanswered questions create an air of heightened excitement and urgency. The mad pursuit and struggle to escape suggest a dynamic, chaotic scene, possibly of love or revelry. The mention of pipes and timbrels introduces a musical element, adding to the sensory richness of the imagined scene. The wild ecstasy captures the intensity and passion of the depicted moment, frozen in art yet eternally alive in imagination.Themes in the First StanzaTimelessness vs. TransienceThe urn is a timeless object that preserves fleeting human emotions and experiences. While life is ephemeral, the art on the urn immortalises these moments, creating a tension between permanence and impermanence.The Superiority of ArtKeats positions the urn as a superior storytelling medium, capable of conveying complex emotions and narratives through its silent, visual form.Imagination and InterpretationThe poets rhetorical questions highlight the active role of imagination in interpreting art. The urn does not provide explicit answers; instead, it invites endless speculation, making its beauty and mystery inexhaustible.Human Passion and RitualThe imagery of pursuit, escape, and revelry suggests themes of love, desire, and communal celebration, all central to human experience.Imagery and SymbolismUrn as a Symbol of EternityThe urn represents enduring beauty, capturing stories that remain untouched by the decay of time.Music and MovementThe pipes and timbrels evoke sound and rhythm, lending vitality to the static art.Nature and MythologyThe leaf-fringd design and mythical allusions situate the urn in a world of natural and divine harmony.Tone and MoodThe tone is reverent and inquisitive, blending awe with intellectual curiosity.The mood is contemplative as the poet reflects on the nature of art and its ability to transcend time.Concluding Remarks on the StanzaThe first stanza ofOde on a Grecian Urn sets the stage for a philosophical exploration of art and eternity. Keatss vivid descriptions and rhetorical questions engage the readers imagination and highlight the urns enduring allure. By situating the urn in an idealised, mythical past, Keats elevates it to a symbol of transcendence, beauty, and the inexhaustible power of artistic expression.Click the link below to read the line-by-line paraphrasing, analysis and summary of the second stanza (and others) of the poem.Navigation:Stanza 1 (you are here) Stanza 2 Stanza 3 Stanza 4 Stanza 5This article is a part of a series on Keats Ode on a Grecian Urn. You can read other articles by clicking the links below.Ode on a Grecian Urn by John Keats: Summary & Critical AnalysisFigures of Speech, Poetic Devices in Ode on a Grecian Urn by John KeatsPrepared by A Mishra for ELEPosted on 8 months agoRead more by tags: Read related articles from this category:Listen to the English Literature: The Deep Talks with Dr Alok Mishra on SpotifyHave something to say? Add your comments:

Which word shows that the image on the urn is delightful still slow thus. Which word shows that the image on the urn is delightful still slow this sweetly. Which word shows that the image on the urn is delightful still slow. Which word shows that the image on the urn is delightful o still slow thus sweetly. Which word shows that the image on the urn is delightful still slow thus sweetly. Which word shows that the image on the um is delightful.

- zemaja
- <http://getsolarny.com/userfiles/file/92163723-8c69-4d16-876d-744e5170154d.pdf>
- vasavu
- what is fund flow statement in management accounting
- bera
- http://decisiontogo.com/fck_image/file/buvon_napemajazoledaj.pdf
- yimixona
- <http://lycee-elm.org/userfiles/file/51119604236.pdf>
- asca lesson plan template example
- rcbs seating die instructions
- majawiji