

# A SAMPLE ANALYSIS ON JOHN KEATS' 'ODE TO A NIGHTINGALE'

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# SAMPLE

**Text:** *Ode to a Nightingale (1918)*, John Keates

**Question**      Source: *Reddam House North Shore*

*Accept, extend, or reframe the below point:*

*In framing the accessibility of the imagination through methods of intoxication as merely ephemeral, Keats represents the capacity of the poetic form in allowing perpetual access to the sublime offered by imagination.*

## Thesis

*Ode to a Nightingale (1918)* is borne out of Keats' realisation of the vanity of earthly methods of intoxication as a mode for contemplating beauty perpetually, for in his view, this is Poesy's vocation.

## Key Idea 1

Keats points out the obvious ephemerality of earthly methods of intoxication, and jibes at the irony and irrationality of expecting an immortal contemplation of beauty to be achieved by such means.

## Analysis

Written on the backdrop of an "opiate" frenzied Europe, in the second stanza of *Ode to a Nightingale* Keats makes a jibe at the expense of his ironic attempts to uncover an ephemeral "draught" or "beaker" that may satisfy his insatiable longing for a perpetual contemplation of beauty. This futile yearning is captured by Keats' repeated and hankering "O, for", which on one occasion is coupled with the poet's pining over a "beaker" that is metaphorically "full of the warm South". In ridiculing his irony Keats implores his reader to realise the inherent absurdity of one's desire for an immortal conception of beauty to spurt from consumption of man's mortal "vintage".

## NOTES

Convention	Explanation
<p data-bbox="395 353 735 459">Ensure that any context presented is relevant to the key idea</p> <p data-bbox="395 499 735 604">Written on the backdrop of an “opiate” frenzied Europe</p>	<p data-bbox="758 353 1198 571">A mistake that I have made in the past has been including ‘context’ for the sake of including context, rather than including context that will be relevant to the point that I am trying to make.</p> <p data-bbox="758 611 1198 969">For instance, in the past I would have said “Written in the early 19<sup>th</sup> century” - this would have still been context, but it would not have been <i>as relevant</i> as explaining to the reader that there was an increasing use of opium in 19<sup>th</sup> century Europe, since I am arguing that <i>Keats</i> is criticizing intoxication.</p>
<p data-bbox="395 1003 735 1064">Integrate quotes outside of the evidence sentence</p> <p data-bbox="395 1104 735 1164">... to uncover a “draught” or “beaker”</p> <p data-bbox="395 1205 735 1265">... man’s mortal “vintage”</p>	<p data-bbox="758 1003 1198 1288">I have heard recently that integrating as many quotes from the text as possible demonstrates a deeper understanding of the text being analysed (regardless of whether they contain techniques or in what section of the paragraph they are being used).</p> <p data-bbox="758 1328 1198 1503">So, I have attempted to integrate quotes in the first sentence where I introduce my key idea, and also in the linking sentence where I reaffirm my thesis.</p>