



Portrait of John Keats (1819) Charles Armitage Brown. Pencil drawing, The Granger Collection, New York.
 Left: Deathbed portrait of Keats, unknown artist. Reproduced by permission of the London Borough of Camden from the collections at Keats House, Hampstead, Great Britain.

WHEN
 I
 HAVE FEARS THAT I MAY

CEASE
 TO
 BE = death

John Keats

English Sonnet
 * rhyme scheme

iambic pentameter

iambic meter

setting - inside speaker's mind
 tens from nature (in almost every line) is used as metaphors about speaker's emotional state

1st POV.
 When I have fears that I may cease to be
 Before my pen has glean'd my teeming brain,
 Before high piled books, in charactry,
 Hold like rich garners the full ripen'd grain;
 When I behold, upon the night's starr'd face,
 Huge cloudy symbols of a high romance,
 And think that I may never live to trace
 Their shadows, with the magic hand of chance;
 And when I feel, (fair creature) of an hour,
 That I shall never look upon thee more,
 Never have relish in the fairy power
 Of unreflecting love;—then on the shore
 Of the wide world I stand alone, and think
 Till love and fame to nothingness do sink.

GUIDE FOR READING

- 1 Note, in the lines that follow, the reasons for the speaker's fear.
- 3 charactry: handwriting.
- 4 garners: storage bins.

thematic focus =
 impending doom, desire for love + fame, & splendor in all forms

9 Why is the "fair creature" described as "of an hour"?

unclear place - shift
 goes from nature as metaphor to nature as uncharted water/lands = the trek is in the poet's mind

goals death fear metaphor - death

* lines 1, 2, 3, 5, 11, 14 > uses temporal indicators
 as first words, creating a feeling of expectation thr. repetition

*transience = holistic interp.

Poem's idea is eternity + the star lasts forever = star as symbol

Bright STAR, Would I

Were Steadfast As Thou Art

JOHN KEATS

Bright STAR, would I were steadfast as thou art
 Not in lone splendor hung aloft the night
 And watching, with eternal lids apart,
 Like nature's patient, sleepless Eremit,
 The moving waters at their priestlike task
 Of pure ablution round earth's human shores,
 Or gazing on the new soft fallen mask
 Of snow upon the mountains and the moors
 No—yet still steadfast, still unchangeable,
 Pillowed upon my fair love's ripening breast,
 To feel forever its soft fall and swell, alliter.
 Awake forever in a sweet unrest, oxymoron
 Still, still to hear her tender-taken breath,
 And so live ever—or else swoon to death.

Symbol, always moving or eternity itself

personified
 apostrophe
 wish?
 1st pov
 alliter.
 not alone / like star
 pun - as in as you are or as in same way?
 extra. personified.
 simile
 lit. allusion
 simile
 enjambment
 metaphor (line) / apostrophe
 4 Eremit (ar'e-mit'): hermit.
 6 ablution (a-bloo'shen): a ritual washing of the body.
 pun = as always or motionless
 wants
 > forever dwelling on lover's chest + if not then rather / death an eternity of -
 - speaker alludes to unrealistic nature of desire - how to spend - knows its not eternity realistic / ideological only