

Ode To Autumn

~ John Keats 



🌼 ✍️ JOHN KEATS ✍️ 🌼



- 🌼 John Keats was an English Romantic poet.
- 🌼 He was one of the main figures of the second generation of Romantic poets.
- 🌼 His works having been publication for only four years of his death.

Romanticism

• 18th and 19th centuries •



🦋 Romanticism was a movement in literature, art and music that emphasized feeling over thought .

🦋 In many ways it was a reaction to the enlightenment or at least it was a reaction against the philosophic notion.



Romantic Literature



🍂 Romantic literature is dominated by poetry.
The triumvirate of **KEATS, SHELLEY and BYRON** are
still well known

🍂 The romantic asserted the importance of the
individual, the unique even the eccentric.

WHAT IS AN "ODE" ?

A poem that is written for a special occasion or that speaks to a particular person or thing

An ode is a form of lyric poetry — expressing emotion — and it's usually addressed to someone or something,

The word ode comes from a Greek word for "song," and like a song, an ode is made up of verses and can have a complex meter.





INTRODUCTION

OF

" ODE TO AUTUMN "



"To Autumn" is a poem by English Romantic poet John Keats. The work was composed on 19 September 1819 and published in 1820 in a volume of Keats's poetry .

Keats composed "To Autumn" after a walk near Winchester one autumnal evening. A little over a year after the publication of "To Autumn", Keats died in Rome.

The poem has three eleven-line stanzas which describe a progression through the season, from the late maturation of the crops to the harvest and to the last days of autumn when winter is nearing.

There are three typical forms of Odes: the **Pindaric**, **Horatian**, and **Irregular**.

The work has been interpreted as a meditation on death; as an allegory of artistic creation; as Keats's response to the Peterloo Massacre, which took place in the same year. 'To Autumn' has been regarded by critics as one of the most perfect short poems in the English language



The poem

Season of mists and mellow fruitfulness,
Close bosom-friend of the maturing sun;
Conspiring with him how to load and bless
With fruit the vines that round the
thatch-eves
To bend with apples the moss'd
cottage-trees,
And fill all fruit with ripeness to the core;
To swell the gourd, and plump the
hazel shells

With a sweet kernel; to set budding
more,
And still more, later flowers for the bees,
Until they think warm days will never
cease,
For summer has o'er-brimm'd their
clammy cells.

Who hath not seen thee oft amid thy
store?
Sometimes whoever seeks abroad may
find
Thee sitting careless on a granary floor,

Thy hair soft-lifted by the winnowing
wind;
Or on a half-reap'd furrow sound asleep,
Drows'd with the fume of poppies, while
thy hook
Spares the next swath and all its twined
flowers:
And sometimes like a gleaner thou dost
keep
Steady thy laden head across a brook;
Or by a cyder-press, with patient look,
Thou watchest the last ooziings hours
by hours.

Where are the songs of spring? Ay, Where
are they?

Think not of them, thou hast thy music
too,—

While barred clouds bloom the soft-dying
day,

And touch the stubble-plains with rosy
hue;

Then in a wailful choir the small gnats
mourn

Among the river shallows, borne aloft

Or sinking as the light wind lives or
dies;

And full-grown lambs loud bleat from
hilly bourn;

Hedge-crickets sing; and now with
treble soft

The red-breast whistles from a
garden-croft;

And gathering swallows twitter in the
skies.



THE POEM  "ODE TO AUTUMN" 

LINK

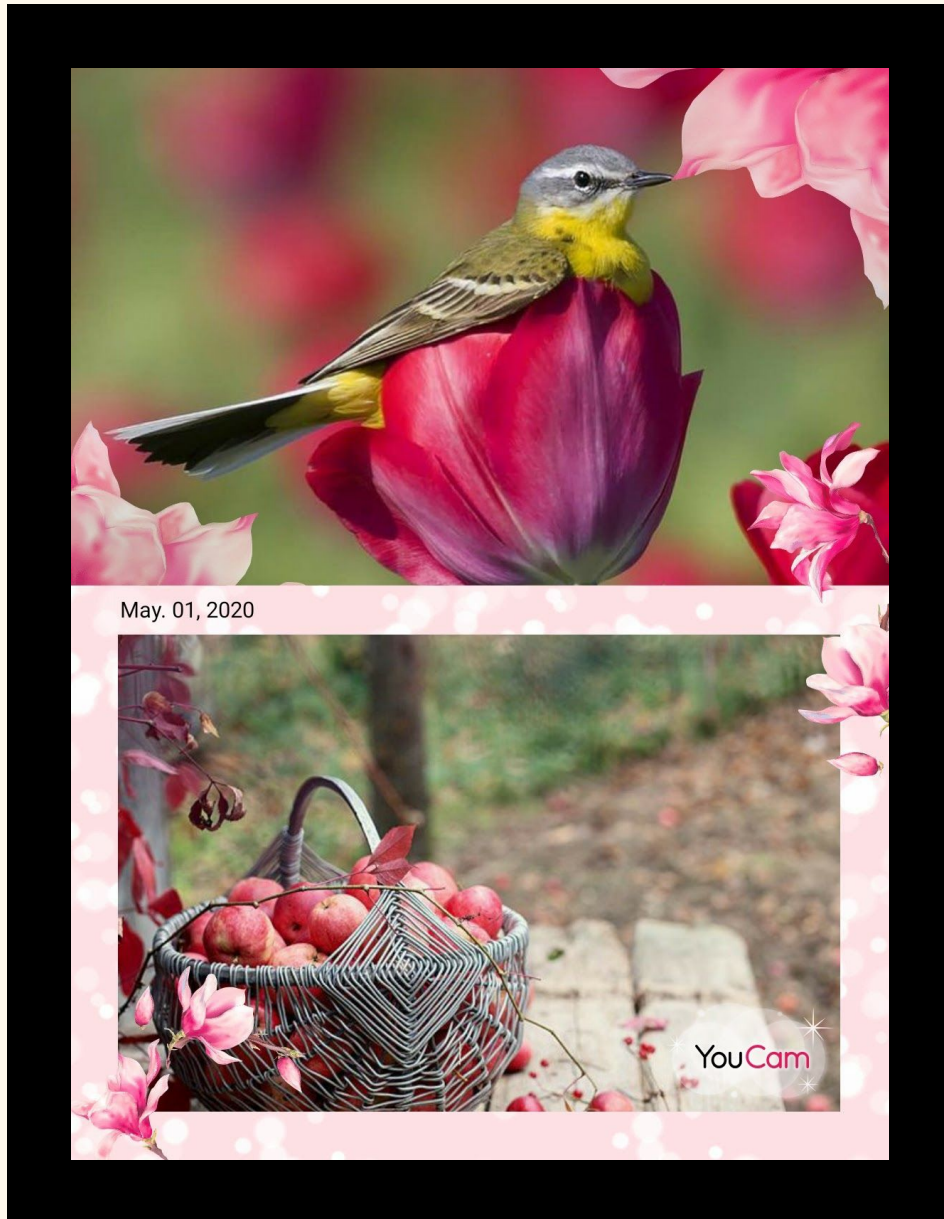
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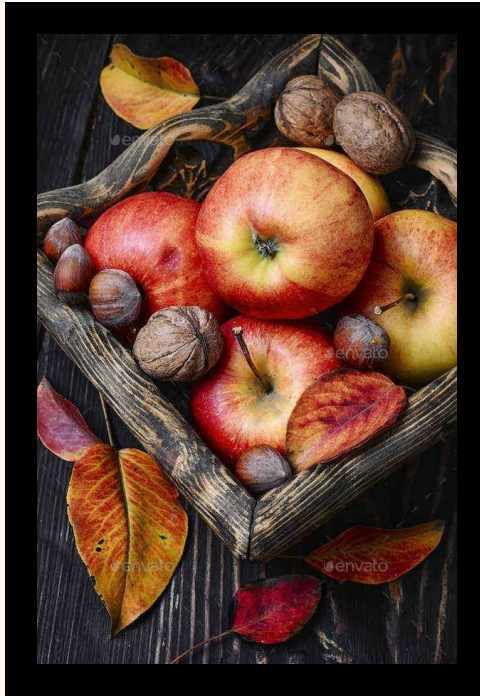


 Summary  "Ode to Autumn" 

by John Keats: Summary and Analysis. In this poem Keats describes the season of Autumn. The ode is an address to the season. It is the season of the harvest and in this season fruits are ripened on the collaboration with the Sun. Autumn loads the vines with grapes.



Keats's speaker opens his first stanza by addressing Autumn, describing its abundance and its intimacy with the sun, with whom Autumn ripens fruits and causes the late flowers to bloom.



In the second stanza, the speaker describes the figure of Autumn as a female goddess, often seen sitting on the granary floor, her hair “soft-lifted” by the wind, and often seen sleeping in the fields or watching a cider-press squeezing the juice from apples.



In the third stanza, the speaker tells Autumn not to wonder where the songs of spring have gone, but instead to listen to her own music. At twilight, the “small gnats” hum among the "the river sallows," or willow trees, lifted and dropped by the

wind, and “full-grown lambs” bleat from the hills, crickets sing, robins whistle from the garden, and swallows, gathering for their coming migration, sing from the skies.



THEME

1. MAN AND NATURAL WORLD

The Ode to Autumn is full of the feeling of nature's generosity. The combination of labour, delight and natural wealth offer the impression of man happy and at peace with the world in which he lives. Man is not the dominant force in the scenes depicted





2

. ⌚ Time ⌚

The final work in a group of poems known as Keats's "1819 odes". Although personal problems left him little time to devote to poetry in 1819, he composed "To Autumn" after a walk near Winchester one autumnal evening. ... A little over a year after the publication of "To Autumn", Keats died in Rome.



3. ♥ AWE AND AMAZEMENT ♥

The speaker knows that **autumn** often gets short shrift in the catalogue of seasons, so he reminds her (and, maybe, himself) of its many wonders: the bounty of the harvest, the dropping of

seeds that will become next year's flowers, and the symphony of sights and sounds at sunset.





4. 🌞🌵 MORTALITY 🌞🌵

Keats explores the themes of life in death and death in life in 'Ode to Autumn' through the imagery, metaphoric language and philosophical ideas used in the poem.


Literary Devices

Literary devices are used to bring richness and clarity to the texts. The writers use them to make their texts appealing and meaningful. In fact, with the help of these devices, the writers can touch the hearts of the readers. Keats, too, has used some literary devices in this poem to capture the beauty of autumn. The analysis of some of the literary devices used in this poem has been given below.

 **Rhetorical Question:** Rhetorical question is often used to make a point and not to receive an answer. Keats has posed rhetorical questions in the second and third stanzas to emphasize his point such as, “Where are the songs of spring?”


 **Imagery:** The use of imagery makes the reader visualize the writer’s feelings and emotions. Keats’s imagery evokes the perceptions of sight, hearing, smell, taste, and For instance, in the first stanza, he uses visual imagery such as “thatch-eyed”; “mossed cottage-trees”; the granary floor”; “plump the hazel shells” and “full-grown lambs.” There is also olfactory (sense of smell) imagery in the second stanza


such as, “fume of poppies” and “sweet kernel.” Tactile imagery is used in the last stanzas such as, “clammy cells” and “winnowing wind.”

 **Personification**: Personification is to give human characteristics to non-human things. Keats has used personification in the opening lines of the poem:


“Season of mists and mellow
fruitfulness, Close bosom-friend of the maturing sun;”


He personifies the autumn season and the sun by calling them friends as if these abstract things are humans with intimate relations.


 **Apostrophe**: An apostrophe is a device used to call somebody from afar. The poet has used this device in the twelfth line where it is stated as “Who hath not seen thee oft amid thy store.” In this line, the poet directly addresses the imaginary character “autumn”.

 **Symbolism**: Symbolism is using symbols to signify ideas and qualities, giving them symbolic meanings that are

different from the literal meanings. Keats has used a lot of symbols in this poem such as “Autumn” symbolizes the women and “the sun” symbolically stands for a male. Similarly, “gathering swallows” symbolizes the end of autumn.

 **Simile**: A simile is a figure of speech used to compare an object, animal or person with another object or person or animals to make its meaning clear. Keats has used simile in the nineteenth line, “And sometimes like a gleaner thou dost keep.” Here, he compares autumn with a person who gathers the remaining food from the field.


 **Assonance**: Assonance is the repetition of vowel sounds in the same line. For example, /o/ sound in “Among the river shallows, borne aloft.”


 **Consonance**: Consonance is the repetition of consonant sounds in the same line such as the sound of /t/ in “And touch the stubble-plains with rosy hue” and /s/ sound in “Spares the next swath and all its twined flowers.”


The literary analysis shows that Keats has skilfully discussed the majestic beauty of autumn by implying these literary devices...


Poetic Devices Used in “To Autumn”

Here is the analysis of some of the poetic devices used in this poem...


 **Stanza:** Stanza is the poetic form of some lines. There are three stanzas in this poem, with eleven lines in each stanza.


 **Rhyme Scheme:** The rhyme scheme of each stanza is ABAB CDECCCE.


 **End Rhyme:** End rhyme is used to make the stanza melodious. Keats has used end rhyme in this poem such as in the first and second lines of the first stanza the rhyming words are, “fullness”, “bless”, “sun” and “run.”

 **Iambic Pentameter:** It is a type of meter consisting of five iambs. The meter of the poem is generally iambic pentameter such as, “Among the river shallows bourne aloft”

CONCLUSION

 To Autumn expresses the essence of the season, but it draws no lesson, no over comparison with human life .

 Keats's strength, his ability to take the beauty of the present moment, so completely into his heart that it become an eternal possession.

 For him the poetry of the earth is never dead.

🌼 Keats's sense of the wholeness of life is nowhere communicated so richly or with such concentration as in this ode.



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