

bright star john keats

bright star john keats is a phrase that immediately evokes the timeless beauty and profound emotional depth of one of the most celebrated poems in the English Romantic tradition. John Keats, renowned for his lyrical poetry and evocative imagery, crafted "Bright Star" in 1819, a poem that explores themes of eternal longing, constancy, and the fleeting nature of human existence. This work not only exemplifies Keats's mastery of language and imagery but also encapsulates the Romantic ideal of seeking permanence amidst a transient world. In this article, we delve into the significance of "Bright Star," explore Keats's poetic vision, and analyze the poem's enduring influence on literature and readers alike.

Understanding the Poem "Bright Star" by John Keats

Background and Context

John Keats composed "Bright Star" during a tumultuous period in his life, marked by personal loss and burgeoning artistic ambition. Written in 1819, the poem reflects Keats's fascination with the concept of constancy and the desire for eternal stability in a world characterized by change. At the time, Keats was deeply influenced by Romantic ideals, emphasizing emotion, nature, and individual experience as central themes of poetic expression.

The poem was inspired by Keats's encounters with the night sky and his reflections on the stars' unchanging nature. Keats admired the star's steadfastness, which symbolized an ideal of unwavering permanence that he yearned for amid his transient human experiences.

Summary and Structure

"Bright Star" is a sonnet, a poetic form traditionally associated with love and admiration. Keats's sonnet follows the Petrarchan (or Italian) structure, comprising an octave and a sestet, which allows for a nuanced exploration of the themes of constancy and mortal life.

The poem begins with the speaker expressing admiration for the star's unwavering steadiness. Keats then contrasts the star's eternal vigil with human life's fleeting nature, culminating in a desire to be as constant as the star while experiencing love and mortality.

Key themes include:

- The longing for eternal stability
- The contrast between permanence and impermanence
- The desire to be fully present in love and life

Thematic Analysis of “Bright Star”

Constancy and Eternity

At its core, “Bright Star” is a meditation on the human longing for permanence. The star symbolizes an ideal of unchanging stability, standing unwavering through the passage of time. Keats venerates this constancy, wishing to emulate the star’s steadfastness in his own life and love.

Quote from the poem:

> “And so live ever—or else swoon to death.”

This line encapsulates the desire for eternal life or, at the very least, a life of unchanging devotion.

Mortality and Transience

While Keats admires the star’s eternal vigil, he is acutely aware of human mortality. The poem juxtaposes the star’s immutability with the fleeting nature of human life and love. Keats’s reflection underscores the Romantic tension between the desire for permanence and the reality of inevitable change.

Key idea:

- Humans experience love, joy, and sorrow within limited timeframes, making the longing for eternity both beautiful and tragic.

Love and Desire

Keats’s personal life was marked by love and loss, and “Bright Star” subtly explores the desire to preserve moments of love against the backdrop of mortality. The speaker wishes to love fully and forever, inspired by the star’s constancy but recognizes the impossibility of eternal life.

Quote from the poem:

> “But so live ever—yet still be my love.”

This line reveals the tension between the desire for eternal love and the constraints of mortal existence.

Literary Significance and Influence

Keats’s Romantic Ideals

“Bright Star” encapsulates many Romantic ideals—an intense focus on emotion, nature’s symbolism, and the pursuit of truth through intuition. Keats’s admiration for the natural world and his reflection

on human limitations resonate deeply within Romantic literature.

Notable aspects include:

- The celebration of nature as a mirror for human emotion
- The exploration of individual longing and personal experience
- The emphasis on beauty and the pursuit of artistic excellence

Impact on Poetry and Literature

Keats's "Bright Star" has influenced countless poets and writers, inspiring reflections on the nature of time, love, and eternity. Its vivid imagery and lyrical quality serve as a benchmark for sonnet poetry, demonstrating how form can enhance thematic depth.

Legacy highlights:

- Inspiration for later Romantic and Victorian poets
- The enduring popularity of sonnets as a poetic form
- Its role in shaping modern contemplations of mortality and permanence

Enduring Popularity and Cultural Reception

The poem continues to resonate with readers and scholars due to its universal themes and lyrical beauty. It has been referenced and paraphrased in various cultural contexts, from literature to music, underscoring its lasting influence.

Analyzing Key Lines and Images in "Bright Star"

The Image of the Star

Keats's depiction of the star as "still, steadfast, and unchangeable" symbolizes an ideal of constancy. The star's unwavering vigil contrasts with human impermanence, embodying the Romantic pursuit of eternal truth.

Quote:

> "Bright star, would I were steadfast as thou art—"

This plea reveals the speaker's longing to embody the star's stability, even if only temporarily.

Natural Imagery and Symbolism

Keats employs vivid imagery of the night sky, the star's light, and the vastness of the universe to evoke feelings of awe and contemplation. These images serve as metaphors for the human condition and the quest for meaning.

Examples include:

- “No—yet still steadfast, still unchangeable”
- The night sky as a symbol of eternal truth

The Personal Touch

Despite its universal themes, “Bright Star” also contains deeply personal elements. Keats’s wish to love fully and experience life’s fleeting beauty reveals his introspective nature and poetic sensitivity.

Conclusion: The Enduring Legacy of “Bright Star”

John Keats’s “Bright Star” remains a poignant meditation on the human desire for permanence in a transient world. Its lyrical beauty, profound themes, and universal appeal have cemented its place as a classic in English literature. The poem exemplifies the Romantic quest for eternal truth and the deep yearning to find stability amid life's inevitable changes. Whether read as a personal reflection or a philosophical meditation, “Bright Star” continues to inspire readers to contemplate the delicate balance between mortality and the eternal—a testament to Keats’s poetic genius and his enduring influence on the poetic canon.

Further Reading and Resources

- Biographies of John Keats: To understand the poet’s life and influences
- Collections of Romantic Poetry: To explore the broader context of Keats’s work
- Analysis and Criticism: Scholarly articles examining “Bright Star” and its themes
- Audio and Visual Interpretations: Readings and performances that bring the poem’s imagery to life

By exploring the depths of Keats’s “Bright Star,” readers gain insight into the Romantic soul’s yearning for eternity and the timeless power of poetic expression.

Frequently Asked Questions

Who was John Keats and what is his significance in literature?

John Keats was a renowned English Romantic poet known for his vivid imagery and lyric poetry. His work explores themes of beauty, mortality, and the transient nature of life, making him one of the most influential poets of the Romantic era.

What is the meaning behind Keats's poem 'Bright Star'?

Keats's poem 'Bright Star' expresses a longing for constancy and eternal stability in a world of change. The speaker admires the bright star's unwavering presence and wishes to emulate its

steadfastness in love and life.

When was 'Bright Star' written and published?

The poem 'Bright Star' was written in 1819 and is part of Keats's collection of sonnets. It was published posthumously in 1848, after Keats's death in 1821.

What themes are explored in 'Bright Star'?

The poem explores themes of desire for permanence, the beauty of nature, love, mortality, and the contrast between eternal stability and the fleeting nature of human life.

How does 'Bright Star' reflect Keats's personal life and philosophies?

The poem reflects Keats's longing for stability amidst his awareness of life's impermanence. It reveals his appreciation for natural beauty and his desire for an eternal, unchanging existence, which contrasts with his own mortal limitations.

What poetic devices does Keats use in 'Bright Star'?

Keats employs vivid imagery, personification, and rhyme scheme in 'Bright Star' to convey the star's steadfastness. He also uses metaphors and alliteration to enhance the musicality and emotional depth of the poem.

Why is 'Bright Star' considered one of Keats's most famous sonnets?

Because of its lyrical beauty, deep emotional resonance, and exploration of universal themes like love and mortality, 'Bright Star' is regarded as one of Keats's most beloved and enduring works.

How has 'Bright Star' influenced modern poetry and literature?

The poem's themes of longing for permanence and the appreciation of natural beauty continue to inspire poets and writers. Its lyrical quality and emotional depth have made it a quintessential example of Romantic poetry.

Where can I read 'Bright Star' and learn more about John Keats?

You can find 'Bright Star' in collections of Keats's poetry, such as 'The Complete Poems of John Keats.' Many online literary resources and archives also provide access to his works and biographical information about the poet.

Additional Resources

Bright star John Keats stands as a luminous beacon in the landscape of Romantic poetry, captivating readers with his lyrical mastery, profound emotional depth, and timeless themes. Keats's poetry continues to resonate centuries after his brief yet impactful life, offering insights into love, beauty, mortality, and the human condition. This article explores the life, works, themes, and enduring legacy of John Keats, providing a comprehensive review for enthusiasts and newcomers alike.

Introduction to John Keats and "Bright Star"

John Keats, born in 1795 in London, is regarded as one of the most talented poets of the Romantic era. His poetry is characterized by its sensual imagery, philosophical musings, and musicality. Among his vast body of work, the sonnet "Bright Star" stands out as a quintessential expression of his poetic ideals and personal aspirations.

The poem "Bright Star," written in 1819, is often seen as a reflection of Keats's desire for eternal constancy amid life's transient nature. It encapsulates his longing for steadfastness and eternal love, themes that recur throughout his oeuvre. Analyzing this poem offers insight into Keats's worldview and his poetic craftsmanship.

The Life of John Keats and the Context of "Bright Star"

Early Life and Education

John Keats was the son of a stable keeper and received a modest education. His early fascination with literature and nature shaped his poetic sensibilities. His initial career as a surgeon influenced his detailed and vivid imagery, evident throughout his poetry.

Romantic Influences and Personal Struggles

Keats was influenced by poets like Milton, Spenser, and Wordsworth. His life was marred by personal tragedies—most notably the death of his brother Tom from tuberculosis, which deeply affected his outlook on mortality. His own health declined rapidly as he contracted tuberculosis, leading to his premature death at 25.

The Writing of "Bright Star"

"Bright Star" was composed during a period of intense emotional reflection. Keats was contemplating mortality and the fleeting nature of beauty and love. The poem is believed to be inspired by a desire for permanence—either in nature or in human affection—and a longing to be steadfast in a world of constant change.

Analysis of "Bright Star"

Poem Structure and Form

"Bright Star" is a sonnet, a form traditionally associated with love and admiration. Keats employs the Shakespearean sonnet structure, consisting of 14 lines with a specific rhyme scheme (ABABCDCEFEFGG). The form allows for a concentrated expression of intense emotion and philosophical reflection.

Themes and Motifs

- Eternity and Permanence: The speaker admires the star's unwavering vigil, symbolizing a desire for eternal stability.
- Transience of Life: Contrasted with the star's constancy, human life is fleeting, evoking a sense of longing and acceptance.
- Love and Desire: The speaker wishes to emulate the star's steadfastness in love, seeking a union that is unchanging.
- Nature's Beauty: The star embodies the sublime beauty of nature, inspiring awe and admiration.

Literary Devices and Style

- Imagery: Vivid visual descriptions of the star and the night sky evoke a sense of serenity and grandeur.
- Personification: The star is personified as a vigilant guardian, emphasizing its watchfulness.
- Alliteration and Assonance: Keats's musical language enhances the lyrical quality of the poem.
- Contrast: The juxtaposition of the star's permanence with human mortality underscores the poem's central tension.

Sample Analysis of Key Lines

"Bright star, would I were steadfast as thou art—"

This opening line reveals the speaker's admiration for the star's constancy, expressing a longing to emulate this trait.

"Not in lone splendour hung aloft the night"

Here, Keats emphasizes the star's solitary vigil, symbolizing unwavering stability amid the vastness of the universe.

"As though my soul were with the natural world"

The speaker aspires to be in harmony with nature's eternal aspects, blending personal desire with cosmic admiration.

Thematic Significance and Philosophical Underpinnings

Romantic Idealism

Keats's "Bright Star" embodies the Romantic idealization of nature as a source of truth and beauty. The star, an eternal entity, represents an ideal of unwavering constancy that humanity longs to attain.

Mortality and Immortality

The tension between the fleeting nature of human life and the star's eternal vigil reflects Keats's grappling with mortality. His desire to be "steadfast" hints at a yearning for permanence in an impermanent world.

Love and the Search for Stability

Keats intertwines the themes of love and constancy, suggesting that enduring love is akin to the star's eternal light—a symbol of hope and devotion amidst life's transience.

Philosophical Reflection

The poem subtly explores the human desire for permanence and the acceptance of life's fleeting moments. Keats recognizes that while perfection may be unattainable, the pursuit of beauty and constancy remains vital.

Legacy and Critical Reception

Impact on Romantic Poetry

"Bright Star" is celebrated for its lyrical beauty and philosophical depth, exemplifying the Romantic preoccupation with nature, emotion, and the sublime. It has influenced countless poets and remains a staple in the canon of English literature.

Critics' Perspectives

Most critics praise Keats's mastery of form and his ability to evoke complex emotions succinctly. However, some interpret the poem as embodying a bittersweet acknowledgment of life's impermanence, adding layers of poignancy to its beauty.

Enduring Popularity

The poem's universal themes and musical language have ensured its lasting appeal. It is frequently studied in literature courses and has inspired adaptations in various art forms.

Notable Comments and Analyses

- Harold Bloom regards Keats as one of the most gifted lyric poets, with "Bright Star" exemplifying his capacity for conveying profound longing with lyrical precision.
- Modern scholars analyze the poem as a meditation on the human condition—our aspirations for permanence in a transient universe.

Keats's Broader Poetic Contributions

While "Bright Star" is among his most famous works, Keats's oeuvre includes other remarkable poems such as "Ode to a Nightingale," "Ode on a Grecian Urn," and "To Autumn." These works explore similar themes of beauty, mortality, and the ephemeral nature of life, cementing his reputation as a poet of profound emotional and philosophical depth.

Features of Keats's Poetry:

- Rich sensory imagery
- Musical language and rhythm
- Emphasis on beauty as a reflection of truth

- Exploration of mortality and transcendence

Pros and Cons of Keats's Poetry:

Pros:

- Lyrical mastery and musicality
- Deep philosophical insights
- Vivid imagery and emotional depth
- Universal themes accessible across eras

Cons:

- Sometimes perceived as overly idealistic or nostalgic
- The brevity of his life limited the breadth of his work
- Not always accessible to those unfamiliar with Romantic ideals

Conclusion: The Enduring Charm of "Bright Star" and John Keats

"Bright Star" encapsulates the core of John Keats's poetic philosophy—an aspiration for permanence, an appreciation for the transient beauty of life, and a profound acknowledgment of mortality. Its lyrical elegance, philosophical depth, and emotional resonance ensure its place as a timeless masterpiece. Keats's life, marked by tragedy and fleeting fame, lends a poignancy to his poetry that continues to touch readers today. His work remains a testament to the enduring human quest for beauty, stability, and meaning in an ever-changing world.

In sum, John Keats, through "Bright Star" and his other works, offers a luminous reflection on the human condition—one that invites us to cherish the fleeting moments of beauty and love, even as we yearn for eternal constancy. His poetry not only enriches the literary canon but also provides comfort and inspiration for generations seeking understanding amid life's impermanence.

Bright Star John Keats

bright star john keats: *Bright Star* John Keats, 2010-10-31 WITH AN INTRODUCTION BY DIRECTOR JANE CAMPION John Keats died in penury and relative obscurity in 1821, aged only 25. He is now seen as one of the greatest English poets and a genius of the Romantic age. This collection, which contains all his most memorable works and a selection of his letters, is a feast for the senses, displaying Keats' gift for gorgeous imagery and sensuous language, his passionate devotion to beauty, as well as some of the most moving love poetry ever written.

bright star john keats: *A Study Guide for John Keats's "Bright Star! Would I Were Steadfast as Thou Art"* Gale, Cengage Learning, 2016 A Study Guide for John Keats's *Bright Star! Would I Were Steadfast as Thou Art*, excerpted from Gale's acclaimed *Poetry for Students*. This concise study

guide includes plot summary; character analysis; author biography; study questions; historical context; suggestions for further reading; and much more. For any literature project, trust Poetry for Students for all of your research needs.

bright star john keats: Bright Star Nicola Jane Buttigieg, 2012-11-19 'Bright Star' captures the drama of some of John Keats' most famous poems, setting them to music in the form of a classical song cycle for voice and piano. Featuring musical settings from 'Ode to a Nightingale', 'Bright Star', 'Lamia', 'The Eve of St Agnes', 'La Belle Dame sans Merci', 'Isabella, or The Pot of Basil', 'To Sleep' and the original Christmas songs 'Where She'll Rest' and 'To Hang this Mistletoe'. Album ranges from low G# to high E.

bright star john keats: Bright Star John Keats, Miriam Chalk, 2008-07-01 JOHN KEATS: BRIGHT STAR: SELECTED POEMS Edited with an introduction by Miriam Chalk This book gathers the most potent passages from the poetry of John Keats (1795-1821) together, including the famous 'Odes', the sonnets, the luxuriously sensuous 'Eve of St Agnes', the mysterious and atmospheric 'La Belle Dame Sans Merci', and extracts from 'Lamia', 'Endymion' and 'Hyperion'. This edition has been updated with new poems, new illustrations and a revised text John Keats is one of the few British poets who is truly ecstatic and wild. Keats is known for his ornate language, memorable phrases ('made sweet moan' in 'La Belle Dame Sans Merci'), Romantic indulgences, and a tendency to gush and exaggerate. Keats is one of a few poets who write in English in a shamanic manner. John Keats reaches the pinnacle of British poetry, as W. Jackson Bate, typical among critics, says: 'the language of his greatest poetry has always held an attraction; for there we reach, if only for a brief while, a high plateau where in mastery of phrase he has few equals in English poetry, and only one obvious superior.' Like Arthur Rimbaud, and like the poet he is most compared with, Percy Bysshe Shelley, John Keats burnt fiercely and died young. He is a poet as martyr and hero, a Vincent van Gogh of poesie. He is famous for his sensual odes - 'Ode to a Grecian Urn', 'Ode to Melancholy', 'To Autumn', 'Ode to Psyche' and 'Ode to a Nightingale' - the poems 'Lamia', 'Endymion' and 'Hyperion', the luxuriant 'The Eve of St Agnes', a group of sonnets, and the strange, haunting fairy tale poem 'La Belle Dame Sans Merci'. John Keats is a typical Romantic poet: he used pagan imagery; he employs much ancient Greek mythology; he is a shamanic poet, who writes in feverish bouts; he is a 'poet's poet'; he wrote searing short poems, and attempted long, epic sequences; he revered the right authors (John Milton, William Shakespeare, the ancient Greeks); he died young; and he travelled to Italy, the key destination for the authentic Grand Tour experience. British Poets Series. Illustrated with portraits and paintings based on John Keats' poetry. Bibliography and notes. ISBN 9781861713759. 136 pages. www.crmoon.com

bright star john keats: Bright Star. The Story of John Keats & Fanny Brawne Joan Alice Gladys REES, 1968

bright star john keats: Bright Star John Keats, 2009-09-16 The epic romance of one of the most celebrated poets in the English language Coming to theatres in September 2009 is the tragic love story of nineteenth-century poet John Keats and the love of his life, Fanny Brawne. Keats died at the young age of twenty-five, leaving behind some of the most exquisite and moving verse and letters ever written, inspired by his deep love for Fanny. Bright Star is a collection of Keats' romantic poems and correspondence in the heat of his passion, and is a dazzling display of a talent cut cruelly short.

bright star john keats: Bright Star Elido Fazi, 2012-06-26 T00:00:00+02:00 On the heels of a renewed global interest in the figure and writing of 19th century British poet John Keats (as attested by Jane Campion's acclaimed film by the same title), Elido Fazi's Bright Star retraces the last period of the young poet's life, as he struggles with financial hardship and family drama. Through a fragmented, non sequential narrative, in line with Keats' complex style and character, the book brings to life the personality of a man who dared to tackle life's deepest contradictions. In this intimate portrait, Keats' encounters with some of the foremost personalities of his time - Shelley, Wordsworth, Coleridge - are viewed through the eyes of a man of humble origins, yet imbued with a unique sensibility. In the book, Keats' struggle to give a literary voice to his powerful vision is

intertwined with the tragic fate of the poet's brothers, and ultimately of Keats himself, struck down by an illness at the age of 26. In his search for the ultimate meaning of things, even his relationship with Fanny acquired a transcendental importance: a matter not simply of affection, but of spiritual communion. Elido Fazi draws heavily – and liberally – not only on Keats' poetic production, but also on his ample and humorous correspondence, shedding light on some of the most quirky and least-known details of the poet's life. In dedicating his life to a never-ending meditation on concepts which our modern sensibility holds so dear – but which often fell on deaf ears with his contemporaries – such as Good, Beauty and Truth, Keats proved to be a mystical and visionary modern hero, who was centuries ahead of his time, and will be remembered for centuries to come.

bright star john keats: Poetry by John Keats Source Wikipedia, 2013-09 Please note that the content of this book primarily consists of articles available from Wikipedia or other free sources online. Pages: 40. Chapters: Bright star, would I were steadfast as thou art, Endymion (poem), Hyperion (poem), Isabella, or the Pot of Basil, John Keats's 1819 odes, John Keats bibliography, Lamia (poem), La Belle Dame sans Merci, List of poems by John Keats, Ode on a Grecian Urn, Ode on Indolence, Ode on Melancholy, Ode to a Nightingale, Ode to Psyche, On First Looking into Chapman's Homer, Sleep and Poetry, The Eve of St. Agnes, The Fall of Hyperion: A Dream, To Autumn, When I have Fears that I may Cease to Be, You say you love; but with a voice.

bright star john keats: Farewell Bright Star Peter Lerner, 2009-09 John Keats, having published only three small volumes of poems in his lifetime, failed to find fame for more than forty years after his death. What could he have achieved had he lived. For what was Shakespeare at five and twenty years? Joseph Severn's love for Keats was different from Keats's love for Fanny Brawne or hers for him. Love resides in the emotions of the heart and manifests itself in the will of the mind and body.

bright star john keats: A Study Guide for John Keats's "Bright Star! Would I Were Steadfast as Thou Art" Cengage Learning Gale, 2016

bright star john keats: Bright Star, Green Light Jonathan Bate, 2021-09-01 This immensely pleasurable biography of two interwoven, tragic figures, John Keats and F. Scott Fitzgerald, unabashedly, cheerfully celebrates the lasting power of literature. (Christoph Irmscher, Wall Street Journal) In this radiant dual biography, Jonathan Bate explores the fascinating parallel lives of John Keats and F. Scott Fitzgerald, writers who worked separately--on different continents, a century apart, in distinct genres--but whose lives uncannily echoed. Not only was Fitzgerald profoundly influenced by Keats, titling *Tender is the Night* and other works from the poet's lines, but the two shared similar fates: both died young, loved to drink, were plagued by tuberculosis, were haunted by their first love, and wrote into a new decade of release, experimentation, and decadence. Both were outsiders and Romantics, longing for the past as they sped blazingly into the future. Using Plutarch's ancient model of parallel lives, Jonathan Bate recasts the inspired lives of two of the greatest and best-known Romantic writers. Commemorating both the bicentenary of Keats' death and the centenary of the Roaring Twenties, this is a moving exploration of literary influence.

bright star john keats: Bright Star Meegan Hasted, 2014

bright star john keats: A Study Guide for John Keats's "Bright Star! Would I Were Steadfast as Thou Art" Cengage Learning Gale, 2017-07-25 A Study Guide for John Keats's *Bright Star! Would I Were Steadfast as Thou Art*, excerpted from Gale's acclaimed *Poetry for Students*. This concise study guide includes plot summary; character analysis; author biography; study questions; historical context; suggestions for further reading; and much more. For any literature project, trust *Poetry for Students* for all of your research needs.

bright star john keats: The Visionary Company Harold Bloom, 1971 Discusses the works of William Blake, William Wordsworth, Samuel Taylor Coleridge, George Gordon, Lord Byron, Percy Bysshe Shelley, John Keats, Thomas Lovell Beddoes, John Clare, George Darley, and others.

bright star john keats: So Bright and Delicate: Love Letters and Poems of John Keats to Fanny Brawne Jane Campion, John Keats, 2009-11-05 Published to coincide with the release of the film *Bright Star*, written and directed by Oscar Winner Jane Campion (*The Piano*, *In the Cut*),

starring Abbie Cornish (Elizabeth: The Golden Age) and Ben Whishaw (Brideshead Revisited, Perfume) John Keats died aged just twenty-five. He left behind some of the most exquisite and moving verse and love letters ever written, inspired by his great love for Fanny Brawne. Although they knew each other for just a few short years and spent a great deal of that time apart - separated by Keats' worsening illness, which forced a move abroad - Keats wrote again and again about and to his love, right until his very last poem, called simply 'To Fanny'. She, in turn, would wear the ring he had given her until her death. So Bright and Delicate is the passionate, heartrending story of this tragic affair, told through the private notes and public art of a great poet.

bright star john keats: An Introduction to Poetry in English Eric Doumerc, Wendy Harding, 2007

bright star john keats: A Moment's Monument Jennifer A. Wagner-Lawlor, Jennifer Ann Wagner, 1996 Seven chapters take up readings of sonnets by Wordsworth, Shelley, Keats, D.G. Rossetti, Hopkins, and, to draw out the implications of this study into our own century, Robert Frost. Close readings of individual Wordsworth sonnets in chapter 1 sketch out a constellation of themes and tropes, as well as a fundamental, revisionary poetic that the very form of the sonnet tropes. Both those tropes and that procedure are problematized and, in some cases, deconstructed by subsequent poets. Far from accepting Wordsworth's visionary claim for the sonnet, this study goes on to show how profoundly those claims were critiqued.

bright star john keats: Flaming Embers Nela Bureu Ramos, 2010 Desire in the broadest sense, as a form of generous self-assertion should ideally increase with the passage of time as we gradually acquire deeper insight into ourselves and others. Prescriptive cultural stereotypes, however, put obstacles on our path to progress as individuation. Yet growing older should not entail renunciation of the singularity of personal fulfilment. This volume is a collection of literary testimonies to the power of art to challenge and resist the social constraints on desire in the context of aging. In the essays, men and women claim their right to age in desire and imaginative vigour.

bright star john keats: Relational Designs in Literature and the Arts , 2012-01-01 This collection focuses on texts that address the other arts - from painting to photography, from the stage to the screen, and from avant-garde experiments to mass culture. Despite their diversity of object and approach, the essays in Relational Designs coalesce around the argument that representations are defined by relations and dynamics, rather than intrinsic features. This rationale is supported by the discourses and methodologies favoured by the book's contributors: their approaches offer a cross section of the intellectual and critical environment of our time. The book illustrates the critical possibilities that derive from the broad range of modes of inquiry - poststructuralist criticism, gender studies, postcolonial studies, new historicism - that the book's four sections bring to bear on a wealth of intermedial practices. But Relational Designs compounds such critical emphases with the voice of the practitioner: the book is rounded off by an interview in which a contemporary novelist discusses her attraction to the other arts in terms that extend the book's insights and bridge the gap between academic discourse and artistic practice.

bright star john keats: LOVE AND SQUALOR PAUL F. CUMMINS, 2011-03-30 Two years ago I published a book about culture and literature called Why Poetry? Friends and colleagues seemed to enjoy it. The book was essentially a gathering of articles I had written for the Santa Monica Mirror. Recently, a couple of friends said, "Why don't you do a sequel and collect some more articles?" "But please," one friend cautioned, "none of your liberal whining." So here is that sequel offering random thoughts, not whining about politics but rather musings about writing, culture, and the environment. If any of these essays create a spark or two, the book will have served its purpose.

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