

# *John Keats*



*George, Amy, Callie, Avery, Kenzie*

# *Keats's Social Class & Education*

- *Keats was born in 1795, being the eldest of Thomas and Frances Jennings Keats's four children.*
- *Did not necessarily come from a poor family, it was mostly a working class environment.*
- *His father, Thomas, managed a stable that was inherited in his family, providing the main income.*
- *A small close-knit family, and happy.*
- *John had little formal education.*
- *It was said he had a liberal education in the boy's academy at Enfield.*
- *He trained at Guy's Hospital (London, UK) to become a surgeon, but ultimately around 1817 became a full poet.*

# Keats's Religion

- Keats's family were not connected to organized religion, and his views were seen as misguided superstition.
- Though, this did not stop him from religion imagery that was tackled into his work

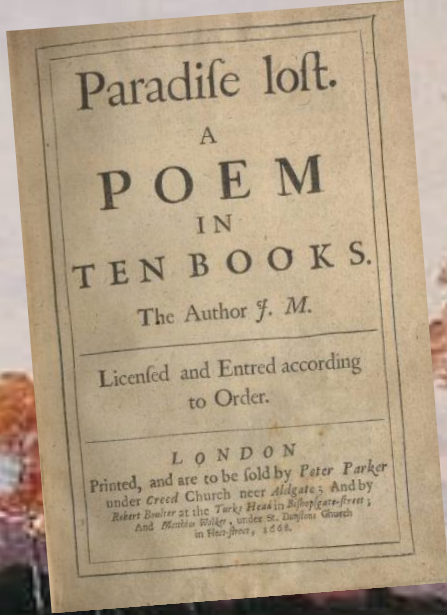


- St Botolph Church is where Keats and his sister, Fanny, were baptized in.
- He believed that the imagination is something he hold onto, more than faith.

# *Influences on his Life and Work*



- *Charles Cowden Clarke*
  - *Longtime friend*
- *Fanny Brawne*
  - *The love of his life*
- *Tom Keats*
  - *His brother*
- *Leigh Hunt*



# *Influences*

*On his life and work*

- *John Milton*
  - *Paradise Lost*
- *Richard Abbey*
  - *Trustee for the Keats children*
- *Wordsworth*
- *Percy Bysshe Shelley*
- *Shakespeare*

# IMPORTANT LIFE EVENTS



John Keats.

- I. Joining Enfield Academy in 1803, and meeting Charles Clarke, son of the Headmaster
- II. Death of father a year later, mother remarrying, eventually returning four years later, falling ill, and dying a year later in 1809
- III. Meeting the tea merchant Richard Abbey in 1810, eventually leaving Enfield a year later to take on a career as a surgeon under Thomas Hammond
- IV. Completion of *Aeneid* translation and reading of influential works, including Spenser's *Faerie Queene*
- V. Published first poem in 1814, "In Imitation of Spenser."
- VI. Early Pol 1: Defeat of Napoleon and publication of "On Peace" supporting reform in 1814.
- VII. Early Pol 2: Feb 1815 sonnet "Written on the Day That Mr. Leigh Hunt Left Prison," for Leigh Hunt's release.

# IMPORTANT LIFE EVENTS

- I. Arrival at Hunts household in December 1816 with other poets including Percy Shelley, Publication of first volume, “Poems” in March 1817 with dedicatory sonnet to Leigh
- II. Minor fallout with Leigh the same month, during celebratory stay, in a fifteen-minute Sonnet competition
- III. 1817 Winter Study of Shakespeare and Wordsworth which lead to
- IV. Publication of first Shakespearean Sonnet “When I have fears that I may cease to be”
- V. December 1817 meet with Wordsworth, after the latter read and admired Keats poem, “Great spirits now on earth are sojourning,”
- VI. Publication of *Endymion* in April 1818 to critical reaction



# IMPORTANT LIFE EVENTS

EVENTUAL DEATH FROM  
TUBERCULOSIS ON 23 FEBRUARY,  
1821

- I. 1818 Autumn writing of eventual-abandoned poem, "Hyperion" (of the Titanomachy) , while taking care of his brother, Tom
- II. Death of brother Tom in December 1818, of Tuberculosis.
- III. Move to Charles Brown's place the same day at Wentworth Place, where he met Fanny Brawne
- IV. Writing of the Odes throughout 1819
- V. Engagement to Brawne in October 1819
- VI. Writing of "The Fall of Hyperion" and "To Autumn" which marked the end of his poetic career.
- VII. Publications of poems throughout 1820, migration to Rome in November 1820 with the young painter Joseph Severn (who wrote his letters for him)



# *Keats's Reception during his time:*



## *Initial Criticism*

- *Endymion (1818) received harsh criticism.*
- *Accused of being overly indulgent and lacking intellectual depth.*

## *Personal Struggles*

- *Criticism deeply affected Keats' health and self-esteem.*
- *Constantly battling ill health (tuberculosis).*
- *Continued to write despite negative reviews.*

## *Influence of Leigh Hunt*

- *Friend and mentor Leigh Hunt encouraged Keats' work.*
- *Hunt helped Keats gain access to London's literary circles.*
- *Keats befriended Shelley and Byron but faced tension with older poets.*

# ***Keats's Reception during his time:***



# *Keats's Reception during his time:*



## *Shifting Reputation*

- *Last 3 years of life saw poetic maturity.*
- *Famous later works: Ode to a Nightingale, Ode on a Grecian Urn, Ode to Autumn.*
- *Aesthetic and philosophical depth evident in later poetry.*
- *Died in 1821 at 25, largely unrecognized.*
- *By late 19th/early 20th century, Keats' popularity surged.*

# Keats Hated his Early Work

*Nothing but paper passed along with the  
breath  
of its words alive with fire. Scraps of  
paper,  
scraps of words written in fire.*

*—Stanley Plumly, Posthumous Keats: A  
Personal Biography.*



Edmund Spenser's "The  
Faerie Queene" Likely  
Awakened Keats' Interest  
in Poetry



Keats was Born on Halloween,  
Making him a Scorpio



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