

✕ Refers to links on www.crossref-it.info

Investigating commentary on *O Solitude*

- ❖ In what ways does knowledge of Keats' personal circumstances help the reader to understand the sentiments expressed in this poem?
 - ✕ <http://crossref-it.info/textguide/john-keats-selected-poems/40/2971>
- ❖ How do you think this poem expresses the creative personality of its writer?

Investigating language and tone of *O Solitude*

- ❖ How does Keats' use of language convey
 - His feelings about the city
 - His feelings about the countryside?
- ❖ Think about the sounds created by the words 'jumbled heap / Of murky buildings'. How does Keats create his effect here?
- ❖ Why do you think Keats uses archaic forms such as 'thee' and 'thy' and exploit the medieval associations of a word like 'pavilion'd'?

Investigating structure and versification of *O Solitude*

- ❖ Trace the development of ideas in the sonnet.
 - How does the subject matter of the octave relate to that of the sestet?
- ❖ How does the punctuation convey Keats' mood in lines 3 to 8?
- ❖ What is the effect of enjambement between lines 2 and 3 and between lines 6 and 7?

- ❖ The sonnet is structured around contrasts. Is the idea of town versus country the only one – or are there more?

Investigating imagery and symbolism in *O Solitude*

- ❖ What is the effect of the images used to create an impression of the natural world?
 - More specifically, why does Keats choose the 'dell', the 'river', the 'boughs' of trees, the 'deer', 'bee' and 'foxglove'?
 - What is conveyed by Keats describing the imagined words of his companion as the 'images of thoughts refined'?

Investigating themes of *O Solitude*

- ❖ Why does Keats beg to be allowed to endure his isolation away from the city's squalor?
 - Why is solitude amid nature preferable to solitude in the city?
- ❖ Keats wishes for 'the sweet converse of an innocent mind'. What does this reveal about Keats' personality?