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### Investigating commentary on *Ode on Indolence*

- ❖ Explain how this ode is connected to the letter that Keats wrote to George and Georgiana Keats
  - ✕ <http://crossref-it.info/textguide/john-keats-selected-poems/40/2979>
- ❖ Do you think it is necessary to know the biographical context in order to understand and appreciate the poem?
- ❖ What is the significance of the allusion to *Macbeth*?

### Investigating language and tone of *Ode on Indolence*

- ❖ The tone of the language shifts from 'cold' to 'warm'. Find examples of both and analyse their effects.
- ❖ Find some examples of how Keats varies the energy and pace for the ode and comment on how he achieves this
- ❖ What musical effects can you find in the poem?
  - Look particularly at the alliteration. Why does Keats employ this device so often?
- ❖ Find examples of ambiguous language and explore the range of meanings they generate.

### Investigating structure and versification of *Ode on Indolence*

- ❖ What effect is created by Keats choosing to structure his ode according to the appearance of the figures on the urn?
- ❖ How does Keats vary the rhythm of the ode
  - To what effect?

- ❖ What is the effect of enjambement? For instance, in stanza 1 between lines 7 - 8, and in stanza 4 between lines 3 - 4.
- ❖ Comment on the effect of the opening two lines of the ode – and the final two lines.

### Investigating imagery and symbolism in *Ode on Indolence*

- ❖ Why is the physical appearance of the figures significant?
- ❖ Why does their appearance seem to exclude the speaker from their world?
- ❖ What is the effect of the 'shadows' and 'ghosts' imagery?
- ❖ How successful do you think Keats is at using imagery to conjure up an afternoon of lazy summer indolence?

### Investigating themes in *Ode on Indolence*

- ❖ 'The poem is important for what it tells us about Keats' beliefs about creativity.' What are these beliefs?
- ❖ How do the themes of this poem compare with those of the other odes?
- ❖ After reading the poem carefully, what do you understand Keats to mean by 'indolence'?
  - In what ways does the speaker find it preferable to love, ambition and poetry?