

**Greek Influence on English Literature**  
**Ode to a Nightingale**  
**by John Keats**

**Multiple Choice Questions**

1. What is the setting of this poem?
  - a) out of doors in a meadow among trees in the dark
  - b) in an aviary in the morning
  - c) by a pool of water in midday
  - d) in a library at night
  - e) in an inn where wine is being served
2. In the first stanza, the Greek word “Lethe” is a reference to \_\_\_\_ and refers to \_\_\_\_ in the poem.
  - a) a nearby river...drowning
  - b) a river in the underworld...fears of the night
  - c) a beautiful song of the Muses...paradise
  - d) a river in the underworld...numbing effects of intoxication
  - e) nature...paradise
3. In the first stanza, the Greek word “Dryad” is a reference to \_\_\_\_ and refers to \_\_\_\_ in the poem.
  - a) trees...vineyard keepers
  - b) tree nymphs...a bird that the speaker is listening to
  - c) large birds...the nightingale
  - d) Olympian goddesses...heavenly birds
  - e) wood nymphs...vineyard keepers
4. What does the speaker express a longing for in the second and third stanzas?
  - a) being one with nature by flying away like a bird
  - b) escaping death through love
  - c) entering paradise through poetry
  - d) enjoying life more fully by becoming a bird
  - e) entering oblivion by drinking wine
5. In the fourth stanza, “Bacchus and his pards” are a reference to \_\_\_\_ and refers to \_\_\_\_ in the poem.
  - a) the god of revelry...enjoyment of life
  - b) the god of wine and leopards...enjoyment of life
  - c) the god of wine and leopards...intoxication through wine
  - d) the god of wine...love of poetry
  - e) the god of the dance...nighttime dreams
6. What has the speaker in the poem made a resolution to do in the fourth stanza?
  - a) He will dance with nature.
  - b) He will forget the world through poetry, not wine

- c) He will become one with Bacchus.
- d) He will worship the Queen-Moon
- e) He will sing with nightingales.

7. Who has become a “sod” (sixth stanza) and why?
- a) the speaker...because he will become one with nature
  - b) the speaker in the poem...because he has become insensible to the nightingale’s song
  - c) the nightingale...because the speaker is hard of hearing
  - d) the Dryads...because they have not heard him sing with the birds
  - e) the “requiem”...because it is not truly the bird’s song
8. Which of the following does NOT identify the “immortal bird” of the seventh stanza?
- a) the “nightingale” of the title
  - b) “deceiving elf” of the last stanza
  - c) the maker of the “anthem” in the last stanza
  - d) the owner of the “voice” of the seventh stanza
  - e) “Ruth” of the seventh stanza
9. Which of the following is NOT true of the seventh stanza?
- a) It describes places far off in time and place.
  - b) It describes the bird’s song as deathless because in a sense it has been sung by other birds for generations.
  - c) It makes a Biblical allusion.
  - d) The speaker identifies himself as the bird he hears.
  - e) The speaker connects people of ancient days to modern through sound.
10. The word “it” (last stanza, second to last line), refers to \_\_\_\_ and causes the speaker’s \_\_\_\_ in the last two lines.
- a) the sad song of the “Dryad”...jubilation
  - b) the past...grief
  - c) “anthem”...confusion as to what is real and what is not
  - d) a vision...joy
  - e) a dream...confusion over whether he has been sleeping or not