



### Scholar's Secret Success-Finder

#### Topic: An Explication of John Keats's Poem, "Ode to a Nightingale"

**As You Begin...** John Keats (1795-1821) belonged to a literary movement known as romanticism. In his day, his work was not favorably received by critics, yet his literary legacy endures. His poems have been the subject of thousands of critical essays and books, and the discussion continues today, in print and online. What inspired Keats to write "Ode to a Nightingale"? What is the central theme of this poem? Why does "Nightingale" continue to inspire readers today?

#### Start by Getting an Overview of Your Topic:

Bloom, Harold, ed. John Keats. Broomall, PA: Chelsea House, 2001.

The Encyclopedia of Romanticism: Culture in Britain, 1780s-1830s. New York: Garland, 1992.

Martinez, Nancy C. Guide to British Poetry Explication. Boston: G.K. Hall, 1991.

The Odes of Keats. New York: Chelsea House, 1987.

**Dig Deeper into Books – find them using the Library Catalog...** try browsing these subjects in the catalog (or scanning 821 KEATS on the shelf):

Keats, John, 1795-1821. – Criticism and interpretation.  
Romanticism – Great Britain.

**Try these Keywords...** (especially in combination) when searching the internet or library catalog:

Keats  
Odes  
Interpretation

Nightingale  
Criticism

**Read what Experts Say in Published Articles (search Indexes to find them)...** try limiting your search by *descriptor* (i.e. "Keats"), *keywords in the title* ("nightingale" or "odes"), and "Scholarly Journals":

Academic Search Premier (EBSCOhost)  
Literature Resource Center (Gale Group)  
Student Research Center (EBSCOhost)

**Save Time by Exploring these Vetted Websites first...**

Academy of American Poets – John Keats [www.poets.org/poet.php/prmPID/66](http://www.poets.org/poet.php/prmPID/66)  
The Life and Works of John Keats <http://englishhistory.net/keats.html>

**Locate Experts, Find Statistics, or Review Research from Professional Organizations...**

Keats-Shelley Association of America [www.rc.umd.edu/ksaa/](http://www.rc.umd.edu/ksaa/)  
Local university English literature departments