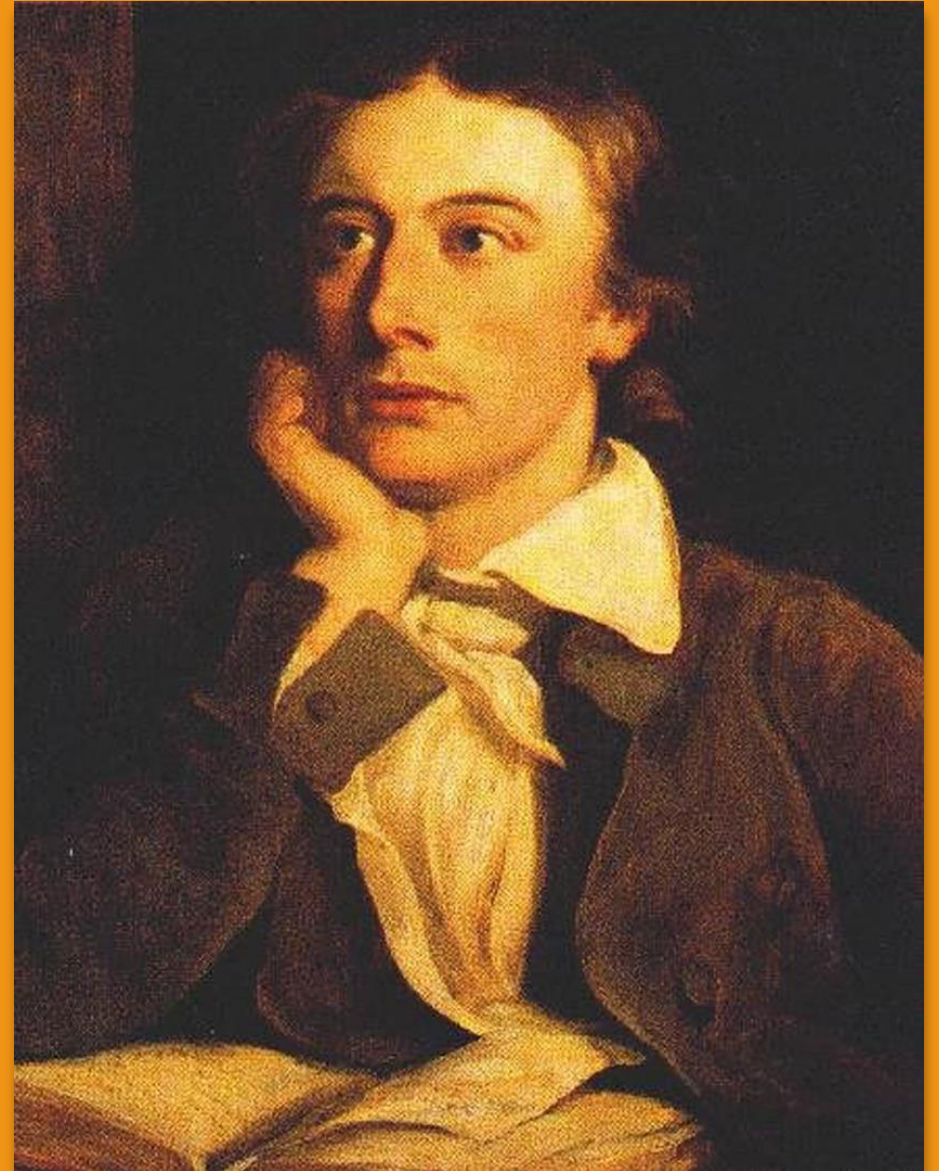


From Birth to Bathos

The Cliffhanger of John Keats Character Development

By Ariel J. Richards



Arc of the Argument

- Remember during the 1st half of the semester for the Fall 2017 Professor Moy's class was given the task of breaking down a 25 chapter autobiography of John Keats by Nicholas Roe 3 or more chapters at time.
- From this I drew inspiration and decided to treat the 19th century writer like a character developing during an interrupted story arc.



Which Arc belongs to Keats?

- The basics of the story arc is as follows:
 - Set up
 - Reaction
 - Conflict
 - Resolution
- Seems simple at first glance accept there are three story arc types based on characters alone.

Character Arc, whose journey is this?

- A character arc starts out with the protagonist, we the audience get their settings and back story.
- Then something happens, knowledge is revealed, or the society hierarchy shifts and they're off to set things right.



Change Arc aka Hero's Quest

- In trying to set things right the protagonist transforms both externally and internally at times.
- Conflicts are resolved. The End.
- When the protagonist is the unlikely fellow and they transform to fit the role that is the Change Arc.
- This was not John Keats.

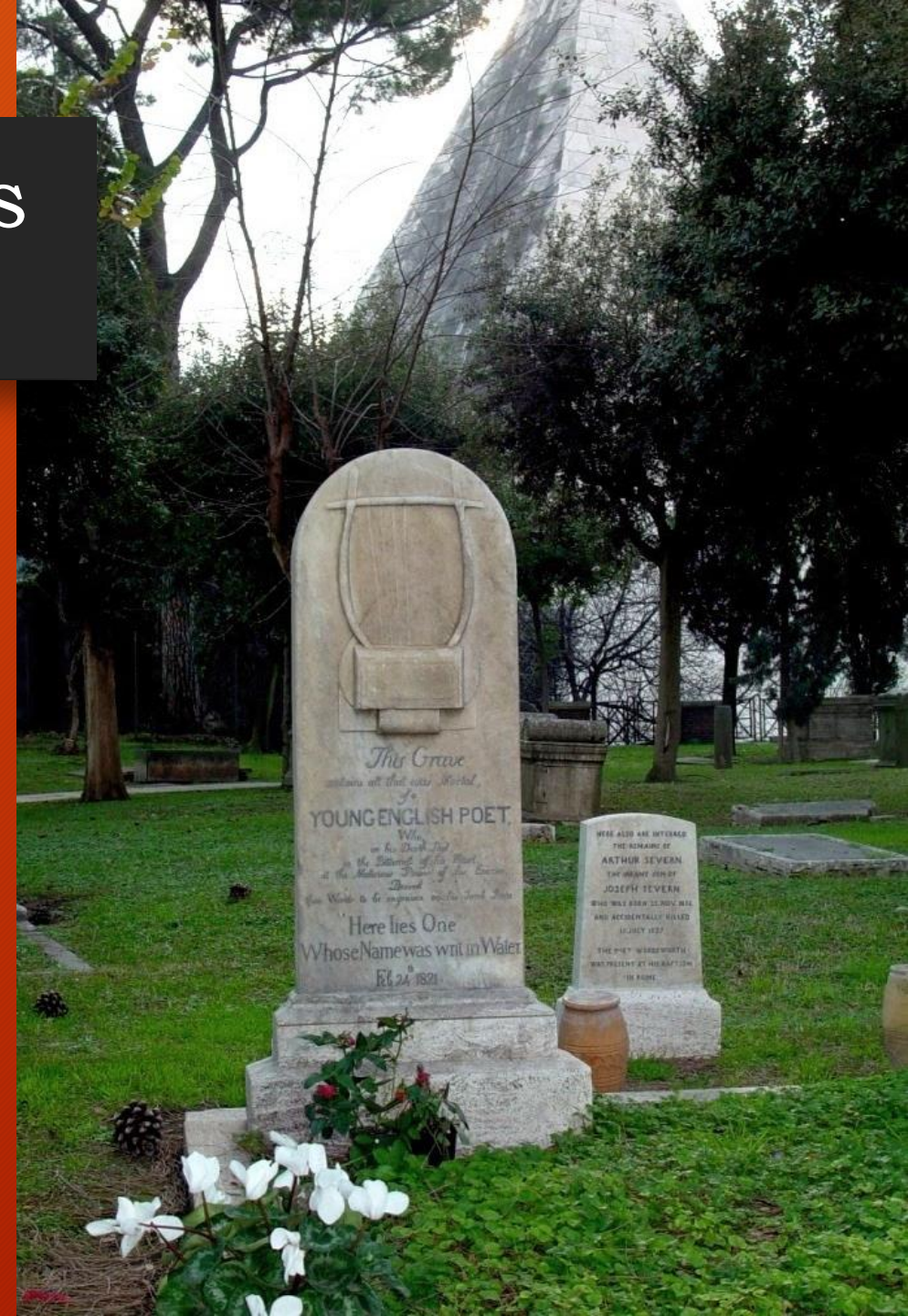


Growth Arc, aka Coming of Age

- The protagonist overcomes an internal opposition while possibly, sometimes simultaneously faces an external opposition.
- As a result the protagonist becomes a more well rounded individual person.
- This is only partially John Keats.

Fall Arc, aka Tragedy shadows Them.

- Protagonist dooms themselves and others.
- Declines into either:
 - Insanity
 - Immorality
 - Death.
- This is majority John Keats.



Mourn his end, Celebrate his reign

- These trails began with a trot that fell in a stumble young colts made glue before they can piece their lives together.
- Human rhetoric claims pounds from rigged flesh for there shall always be a corpse behind every shilling.
- Gravity increased when money decreased then we're set adrift in the sea of humanity.



Keats' Backstory and Setting

- Born October 31, 1795
- *Growth*
- 1804, Age 9, while returning from visiting his brother and himself at Clarke's School, Keats's father has a horse riding accident that proved fatal.
- *Fall*
- 1805, Age 10, Keats' grandfather dies and someone files a lawsuit over the will stressing out the family in general.
- This would lead to Keats' chronic anxiety over money which left him smothered in feelings of embarrassment and intimidation from then on.
- *Fall*

Mourn his death, Celebrate his reign

- Bird's eye view of young stallion as he mourns his mother it's hard to know freedom of expression when those around you fall breathless and death still dogs your steps.



Keat's Backstory and Setting continued...

- 1806-1809, Ages 11-13, John Keats grows closer to his lifelong friend Clark, Clark is the son of the Headmaster of Clarke's School.
- *Growth*
- Mother returns and falls ill with rheumatism and tuberculosis.
- *Fall*
- 1810, Age 14, Mother dies
- *Fall*

Mourn his death, Celebrate his reign

- Hind sight births preparation and paranoia.
- This intermission seems suspicious until the sparks is given in the form of faerie lights.
- Fair folk spoke and Shakespeare woke me.
- I am not breathless and I wish to speak of everything there could possibly be.
- Let my tongue and feet be free.



Keat's Reaction

- 1810, Age 14, John Keats grieves and after Clarke's School apprenticed to the apothecary Dr. Hammond of Edmonton.
- *Growth and Fall*
- 1810-1812, Ages 14-16, Clark remarks those three years were the most emotionally stable for Keats.
- *Growth*
- 1813, Age 17, Clark loans Keats Spenser's *The Faerie Queen* and later Shakespeare.
- *Growth*

Mourn his death, Celebrate his reign

- Light flickers and darkness looms my last parent is groomed for a casket and I'm trying not to become a basket case.
- I couldn't fix it then but, next time I'll be ready.
- I couldn't fix it then but, next time death won't win.
- Words of wonder won't wait, but I want godhood, I want to be a master surgeon.



Keat's Reaction continued...

- 1814, Age 18, Keats writes his first three poems.
 - Imitation of Spenser
 - On Peace
 - Fill for me a brimming bowl
- *Growth*
- 1814, Age 18, Grandmother dies.
- *Fall*
- 1815, Age 19, Keats registers at Guy's Hospital and still writes poetry.
- *Growth x 2*

Keats' Reaction continued...

- 1815, Age 19, Students who attend Guy's Hospital have an opportunity to gain dressership which is the equivalent to residency.
 - Out of 700 students only 12 gain dressership, Keats was amongst them.
- *Growth*
- 1816, Age 20, Dressership begins
 - Dressing wounds
 - Changing bandages
 - Holding patient's down during operations
- *Growth*
- First published poem
- *Growth*
- Crossroads, minimalized medical efforts and maximized artistic efforts

Mourn his death, Celebrate his reign

- Godhood doesn't hold the spark and titans still walk the realm.
- I won't dwell in Zeus level ego I want to be Prometheus practitioner
- Before they deal me raw they'll see the fire I bring and let passion ring.
- Let passion ring like a stampede through the glade I revel in my humanity.



Keats' Reaction continued...

- 1816, Age 20, Friends are worried he would fail his exams but...
- John Keats passed his Licentiate of the Society of Apothecaries
- *Growth*
- Fall of that year Clark and John read a copy of George Chapman's translation of Homer
- *Growth*
- Meets a group of friends that would endure during and after his lifetime.
 - Lehigh Hunt
 - James Rice
 - John Hamilton Reynolds
 - Benjamin Robert Haydon
- *Growth*

Mourn his death, Celebrate his reign

- To celebrate my majority I mourned the naivety of my minority.
- My earthly woes can't afford me to wail that adulthood is here and I have been crippled by the generation before me.
- Lame stride, pride bruised and in myself I draw the steps to keep moving forward.

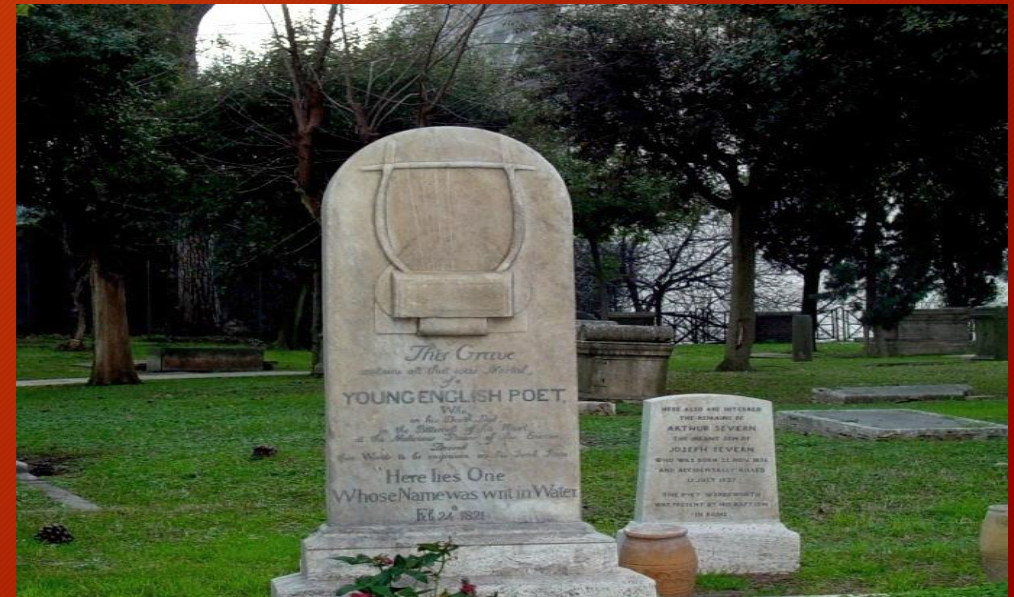


Keats' Reaction continued..

- October 31, 1816, Age 21, gets a full possession of inheritance.
- Realizes career in poetry can't sustain him unless he's commercially success.
 - Inheritance from grandmother is used to pay for medical training.
 - Inheritance from grandfather is in limbo.
- *Growth and Fall*

Keats straddles Life and Death.

- 1817, Age 21, Travels, networks writes and gets published.
- *Growth*
- 1818, Age 22, Conflict
- Brother George moves abroad to United States.
- *Growth and Fall*
- Works get published.
- Growth
- Works get critiqued harshly.
- *Fall*
- Meets Fanny Brawne
- *Growth and Fall*



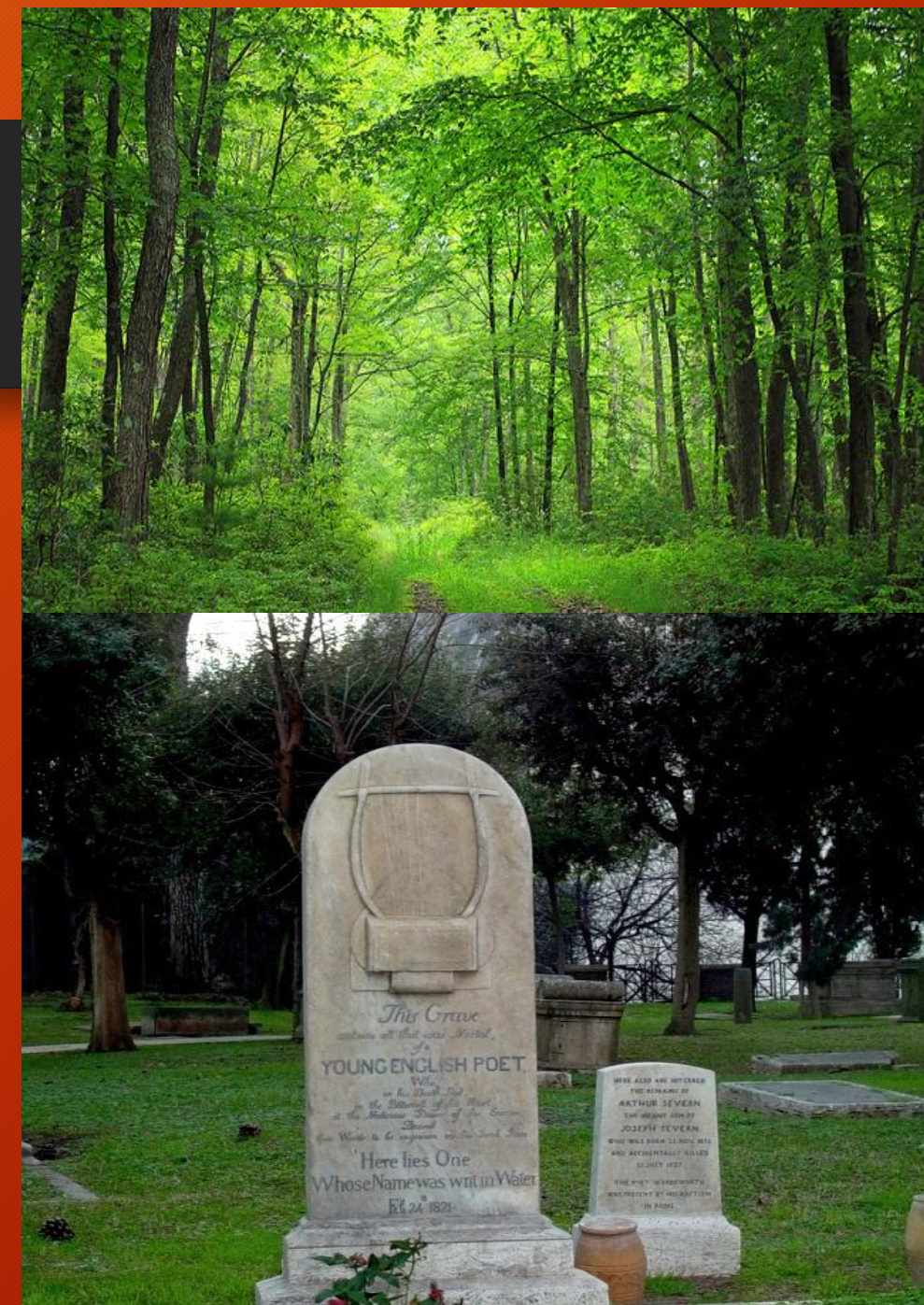
Mourn his death, Celebrate his reign.

- By the end of these races we'll be culled like herd ripe for humanity to glut upon.
- Before I became breathless in body I grew breathless in heart and it seemed it was the start of solstice.
- But a child of Samhain keeps landing in the fall.
- I harvested my hopes and broke free of my sick bed and sailed to Rome.
- One more trip before winter cages me in.



Keats straddles Life and Death.

- 1818, Age 22, Brother Tom falls ill and die.
- *Fall*
- 1819, Age 23, Writes works and gets published.
- Growth
- Courts Fanny Brawne.
- *Growth*
- Begins to fall ill.
- *Fall*
- Falls into Depression.
- *Fall*



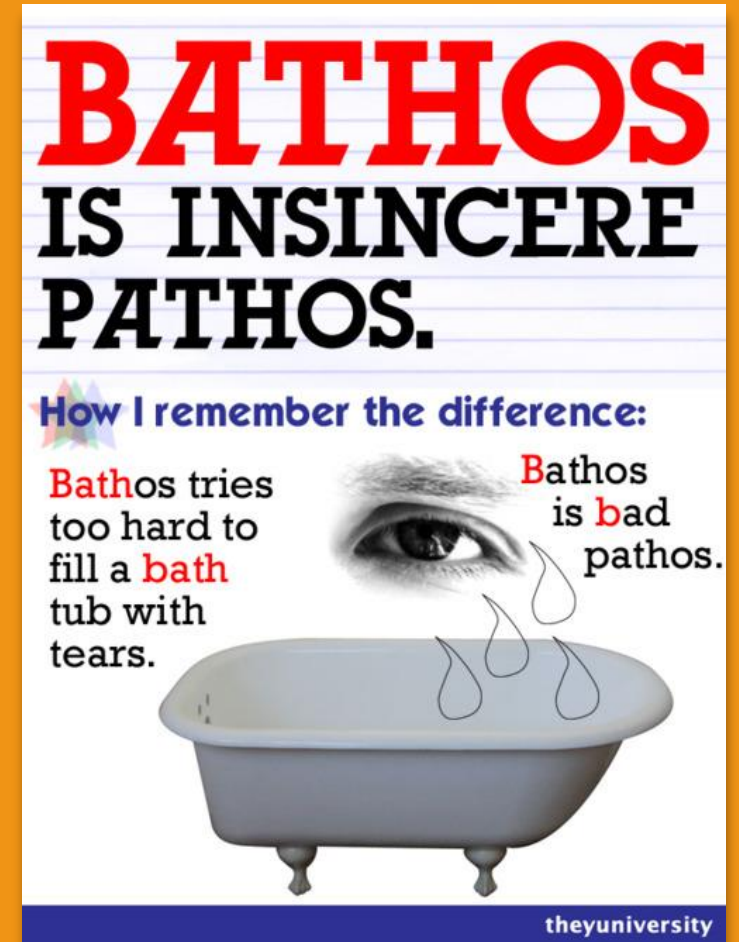
Keats straddles Life and Death

- 1820, Age 24, Brother George returns and gets the entirety of their grandfather's inheritance leaving John Keats penniless.
- *Growth and Fall.*
- Lung Haemorrhage
- *Fall.*
- Forced to take long term bed res first alone and later at Lehigh Hunt's house.
- *Fall*
- Sails to Rome, Italy.
- *Growth*
- 1821, Age 25, Dies in Rome.
- *Fall*



Bathos

- An effect of anticlimax created by an unintentional lapse in mood from the sublime to the trivial or ridiculous.
- Like many artists before him John Keats the 19th century writer died during what would be considered the climax of his professional career.
- And upon his death his works received fame greater than when he was amongst the living.

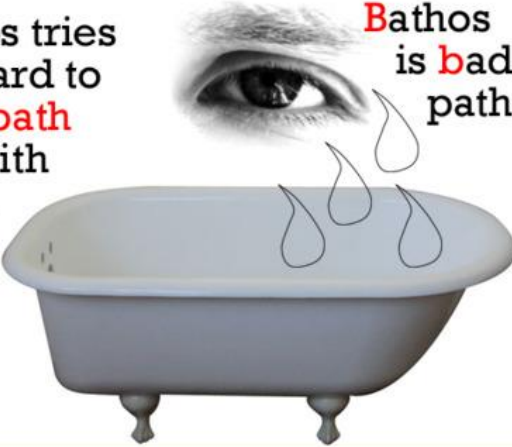


- On Friday, February 23, 1821 John Keats died due to what was suspected by Nicholas Roe his attempts to cure a venereal infection.
- By use of mercury Keats flooded his lungs and completely destroyed as evidence by his biopsy.
- Having just published his book of poems in 1817 Keats had finally found his formula of articulating sensuality while appealing to 19th century public sensibilities.

BATHOS IS INSINCERE PATHOS.

How I remember the difference:

Bathos tries too hard to fill a bath tub with tears.



Bathos is bad pathos.

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The End

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