



A THING OF BEAUTY

- John Keats

(1795-1821)

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About the Poet : John Keats was a British Romantic poet. Although trained to be a surgeon, Keats decided to devote himself wholly to poetry. Keats' secret; his power to sway and delight the readers, lies primarily in his gift for perceiving the world and living his moods and aspirations in terms of language. The following is an excerpt from his poem '*Endymion; A Poetic Romance*'. The poem is based on a Greek legend, in which Endymion, a beautiful young shepherd and poet who lived on Mount Latmos, had a vision of Cynthia, the Moon Goddess. The enchanted youth resolved to seek her out and so wandered away through the forest and down under the sea.





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Introduction



In the poem 'A Thing of Beauty', John Keats glorifies nature and its beauty by saying that nature and its wonder not only mesmerise us but also take away all the sorrow that surrounds us. He opines that beautiful bounties of nature are worth being treasured. They are source of eternal joy, and their impact never fades away. The poet believes that a beautiful thing has the healing power as it provides us with good health by removing sadness and despair from our mind. The poet asserts that beautiful things are like the sweet nectar that keeps on flowing onto us from the heaven's corner.

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Theme – Impact of beauty on our lives

Sub-Theme – Gratitude to nature

Narrator – The poet himself





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A thing of beauty is a joy forever
Its loveliness increases, it will never
Pass into nothingness; but will keep
A bower quiet for us, and a sleep
Full of sweet dreams, and health, and quiet breathing.
Therefore, on every morrow, are we wreathing
A flowery band to bind us to the earth,
Spite of despondence, of the inhuman dearth
Of noble natures, of the gloomy days,
Of all the unhealthy and o'er-darkened ways
Made for our searching: yes, in spite of all,
Some shape of beauty moves away the pall
From our dark spirits. Such the sun, the moon,
Trees old, and young, sprouting a shady boon
For simple sheep; and such are daffodils
With the green world they live in; and clear rills
That for themselves a cooling covert make
'Gainst the hot season; the mid forest brake,
Rich with a sprinkling of fair musk-rose blooms;
And such too is the grandeur of the dooms
We have imagined for the mighty dead;
All lovely tales that we have heard or read;
An endless fountain of immortal drink,
Pouring unto us from the heaven's brink.





A THING OF BEAUTY

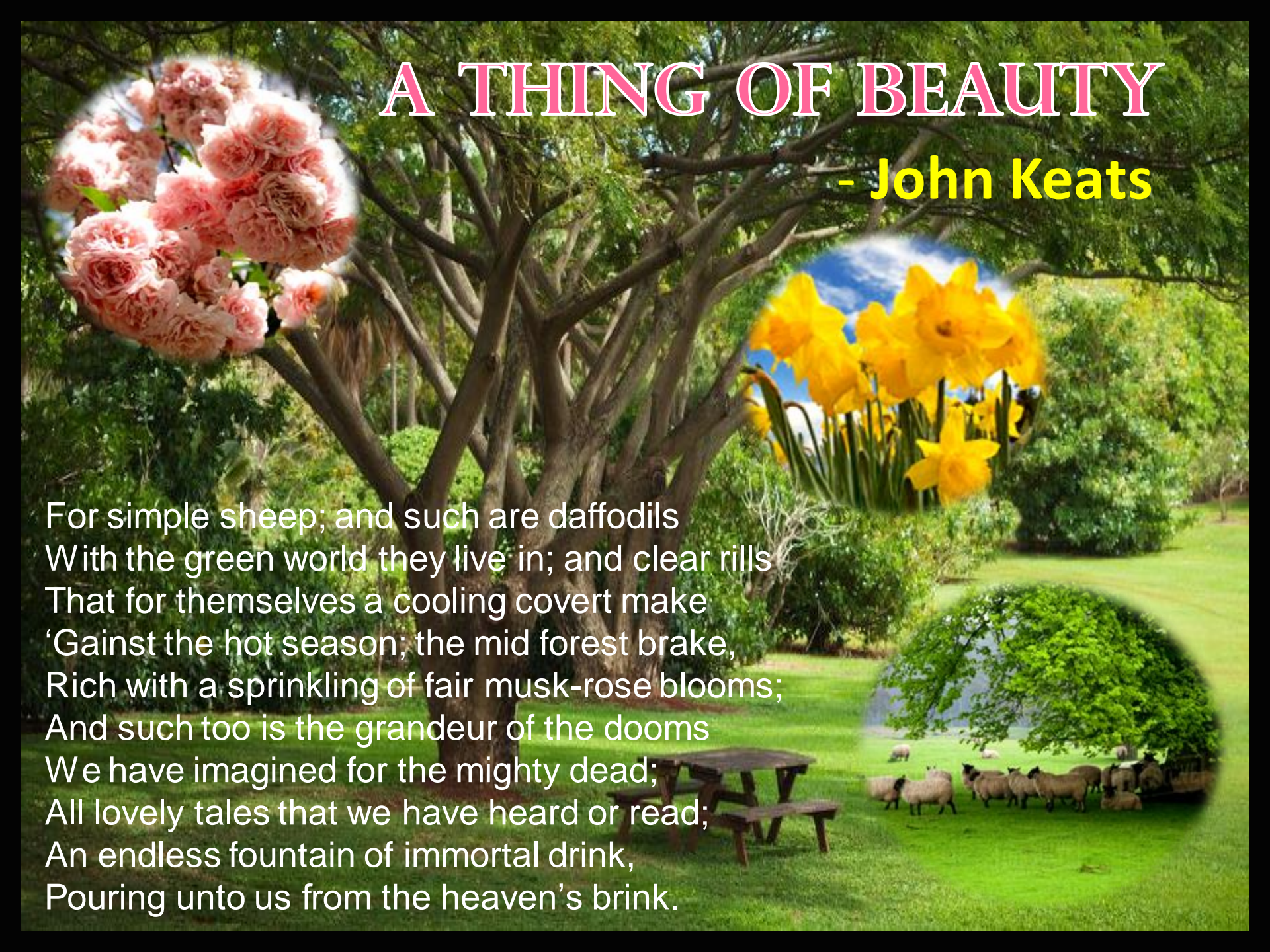
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A composite image featuring a large tree with pink roses, yellow daffodils, a picnic table, and sheep in a green field.

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“A thing of beauty is a joy forever”

SUMMARY

A beautiful thing is a source of eternal joy, its loveliness grows with the passage of time and its impact never fades away. It is as soothing as a cool shade. It never passes into nothingness. It gives us good health, sound sleep and mental peace. It provides the beholder with a haven of tranquility and solace. Man and nature are inseparable. It is the beauty of nature that keeps us attached to this earth. Every morning we collect fresh lovely flowers and prepare garlands. They refresh our moods and we forget our worries for a while. Life is full of trials and tribulations and we often find ourselves in the midst of gloom. Every person gets a bitter taste of sorrow, suffering and grief. Disappointments and misfortunes give us mental and physical suffering.

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“A thing of beauty is a joy forever”

SUMMARY

However, the beautiful things remove the pall of sadness from our lives and make us happy and hopeful. We forget all our despair, acute shortage of noble souls and misfortunes that overtake us to test our forbearance. All beautiful things of nature are a boon for human beings. The sun, the moon, the trees, daffodils, simple sheep, clear streams, forests ferns, musk rose etc. provide us with peace and happiness. Also, the glorious achievements of mighty heroes and magnificent rewards by God on the day of judgement for those mighty men, are endless source of everlasting joy. In addition to these, there are great works of literature that lift our spirits. The poet calls the things of beauty an elixir of life. They are like an endless fountain that pours immortal drink from the heaven into our hearts.

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POINTS TO PONDER

- The beautiful things of nature are permanent source of joy that make our lives sweet.
- A thing of beauty is a joy forever.
- It does not pass into nothingness but its beauty keeps on increasing.
- It gives us sound sleep and good health;
- This world is full of frustrations, disappointments and dearth of noble people.
- These make our life gloomy and sad.
 - Things of beauty remove the pall of sadness from our spirits.



- Nature is a constant source of happiness for human beings.
- E.g. sheep, daffodils, clear rills, musk rose and thickets.
- These things soothe and make us happy.
- Lovely tales that have a stimulating effect.
- Mighty dead and grandeur of the dooms.
- Comparison between things of beauty and elixir.

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Literary Device



Transferred Epithet : gloomy days, o'er-darkened ways

Inversion : normal order of words is reversed
(Are we wreathing a flowery band)

Imagery : flowery band, shady boon, clear rills, daffodils in the green world, cooling covert

Alliteration : noble nature, cooling covert

Rhyme Scheme : AA BB, CC DD

VOCABULARY

Bower: a shady place under the tree, Morrow: the following day, Wreathing: curl or entwine, Despondence: loss of hope, Gloomy: sad, Boon: blessing, Rills: a small stream, Brake: a thick mass of ferns, Grandeur: magnificence, Mighty: enormous, Immortal: never dying, Brink: edge



A THING OF BEAUTY

ASSIGNMENT : QUESTIONS TO TEST COMPREHENSION

Short Answer Questions :

“Some shape of beauty moves away the pall
From our dark spirits”.

Sample Q. Extract-based

- How does beauty help us when we are burdened with grief?
- Explain; “Some shape of beauty.”
- Identify the figure of speech in the above lines.
- What makes the mid-forest brake rich?



Short Answer Questions (30-40 words) :

1. What are the poet's views on things of beauty?
2. What effect do beautiful things have on us?
3. What makes human unhappy and how do they find release from this state?
4. How does the poet define the gifts of nature?
5. What is the 'endless fountain' a reference to?
6. Why does the poet say that 'a thing of beauty is a joy forever'?
7. What is it that makes humans forge deeper bonds with the earth and with life?
8. Why is 'grandeur' associated with 'mighty dead'?
9. What makes humans love life in spite of all troubles and sufferings?
10. What is lovelier than all lovely tales we have heard or read?