

## READING

### John Keats

John Keats was born on October 31<sup>st</sup>, 1795. He had a sister and three brothers. One of the brothers died when he was a child. When John was eight years old, Keats started studying at Enfield Academy. He was a good student and won first prizes in essay competitions. However, according to one of his friends, he was more interested in fighting than in books.

In 1804, his father was killed in an accident. His mother died in 1810 and left the children to their grandmother. In 1811, John Keats started to study anatomy and physiology to become a surgeon. He felt lonely and often walked in the woods. He also read a lot of books at that time. In 1814, he wrote his first poem. His main ambition was to become a poet. His first book of poems appeared in 1817, but it was not very successful.

In 1818, Keats's brother Tom became seriously ill with tuberculosis and John Keats looked after him. At the same time, he wrote one of his most famous poems, *Hyperion*. Tom died on 1 December. Keats was then invited by his friend Charles Brown to come and live with him. Keats accepted the offer. Around that time he fell in love with a young woman called Fanny Brawne but they never married.

In 1820, a new book of Keats's poems was published. It was quite successful, but John Keats was too ill to care. In November 1820, Keats moved from England to Italy. He died in Rome on 23 February 1821 in the arms of his friend Joseph Severn.

During his lifetime, John Keats published only 54 poems and his poetry often received negative reviews. Today, he is considered one of the greatest English poets of all time.

#### 1 Read the text and answer the following questions.

- 1 When was John Keats born? \_\_\_\_\_
- 2 What happened to John Keats in 1804? \_\_\_\_\_
- 3 Why did John Keats study anatomy and physiology? \_\_\_\_\_
- 4 What was Keats's main ambition? \_\_\_\_\_
- 5 What happened to Keats's brother Tom in 1818? \_\_\_\_\_
- 6 Where did John Keats move in 1820? \_\_\_\_\_
- 7 How many poems did Keats publish during his lifetime? \_\_\_\_\_

#### 2 Are these sentences true (T) or false (F)?

- 1 John Keats had a brother and three sisters. \_\_\_\_\_
- 2 When he was a child, John Keats did well at school. \_\_\_\_\_
- 3 John Keats wrote his first poem in 1817. \_\_\_\_\_
- 4 Keats's first published book of poems was very popular. \_\_\_\_\_
- 5 In 1818, John Keats invited his friend Charles Brown to live with him. \_\_\_\_\_
- 6 John Keats married Fanny Brawne in 1818. \_\_\_\_\_
- 7 John Keats died in the arms of his lover. \_\_\_\_\_

**SOURCES:** <http://www.john-keats.com/>, <https://www.poetryfoundation.org/poems-and-poets/poets/detail/john-keats>,

## KEY

### 1 Read the text and answer the following questions.

- 1 When was John Keats born? **Keats was born on October 31<sup>st</sup>, 1795**
- 2 What happened to John Keats in 1804? **his father was killed in an accident**
- 3 Why did John Keats study anatomy and physiology? **to become a surgeon**
- 4 What was Keats's main ambition? **to become a poet**
- 5 What happened to Keats's brother Tom in 1818? **he became seriously ill with tuberculosis**
- 6 Where did John Keats move in 1820? **to Italy (to Rome)**
- 7 How many poems did Keats publish during his lifetime? **54**

### 2 Are these sentences true (T) or false (F)?

- 1 John Keats had a brother and three sisters. **F (he had a sister and three brothers)**
- 2 When he was a child, John Keats did well at school. **T (he was a good student)**
- 3 John Keats wrote his first poem in 1817. **F (in 1814)**
- 4 John Keats's first published book of poems was very popular. **F (his first published book of poems wasn't successful)**
- 5 In 1818, John Keats invited his friend Charles Brown to live with him. **F (Charles Brown invited Keats)**
- 6 John Keats married Fanny Brawne in 1818. **F (they never married)**
- 7 John Keats died in the arms of his lover. **F (he died in the arms of his friend)**