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**S. No 16 B.A.Part-1 English Hons. Topic: Explanation-1 *Ode To A Nightingale*
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Expl-1 My heart-aches..... full-throated ease.

This is the opening stanza of the poem *Ode To A Nightingale* by John Keats. While Keats was staying with his friends, Brown, at Hampstead he often listen to the song of a nightingale. In this stanza he describes the effect produced on him by the sweet music of the bird.

The poet feels excessively happy on hearing the nightingale song. The joy he expresses brings a strange pain in his heart. All his senses are lost in the spiritual joy. He feels like a man who has drank the hemlock juice, or who has taken a dose of narcotic that brings some numbness over his body and causes sleep and forgetfulness.

Keats himself is a poet and a singer. But he does not feel jealous of the song of the bird. On the other hand he feels so happy at the song of the bird that he forgets his own pain and grief whenever listens to the song of the nightingale. He thinks nightingale is a forest nymph living invisible in a tree. As he cannot see the nymph he fancies that it is singing in a green meadow which is covered by green beech trees. He further imagines that the nightingale is singing in the midst of chequered shades of beech tree. The nightingale sings in a clear and loud voice. There is no sorrow choking its voice and obstructing the sweet notes of music. It sings of the perfect joys of the summer season