

## 2008 AP Exam Poetry Prompt Outline Samples

TH: The fear of death cutting short youthful ambitious permeates both poems with Keats and Longfellow reaching two distinct conclusions: Keats takes a decisive stance and determines that until love and fame still exists there is reason to live; Longfellow considers hope but dismisses it- it is of little importance in the face of death.

TH: Though both poets establish a fear of death before living; they have different notions of what they wish to accomplish.

TH: In the poems “When I Have Fears” by John Keats and “Just Before Leaving Home” by Henry Wadsworth Longfellow, both authors are troubled by the idea of not accomplishing their goals in life; while one accepts his failure, the other attempts the outcome of his life.

- TS1: In the poem “When I Have Fears”, Keats exposes his fears and weaknesses while acknowledging his need for improvement.
- TS2: In the poem “Just before leaving home”, Longfellow expresses his awareness of his failure throughout his life and, unlike Keats, has accepted his fate.

TH: Though both authors use a nostalgic tone throughout the sonnet to discuss to discuss a realization of their mortality and lack of accomplishments before death, Keats is fearful while Longfellow is more accepting of his undeniable fate.

- TS1: In the sonnet “When I Have Fears,” Keats describes his obsession with his lack of accomplishments before his death.
- TS2: On the contrary, Longfellow embraces the fact that he hasn’t accomplished all that he has planned.

TH: While the two poems both examine dwelling in the past by symbolically presenting a previous life, each author’s unique perspective on life is revealed through the structural divisions of the poems.

- TS1: Both Poems exhibit wasted parts of life by using symbolism and metaphors to make the past attractive but ephemeral.

TS1: Through their sonnets, Keats and Longfellow portray their regret of failing to reach their aspirations through their somber tones.