

Name _____ British Literature III

The Eve Of St. Agnes by John Keats

beadsman - one who does the rosary, probably a monk or hermit

St. Agnes Eve - coldest night of the year; St. Agnes was a martyred Roman virgin

1. What is the setting of this poem? What period does it evoke?

2. What contrast does Keats bring out in stanzas II through V?

3. Who is Madeline? What is she doing? In what state is she?

4. Who is Porphyro? What is he doing? Why is it dangerous?

5. Who is Angela, and what is her relationship to Porphyro? What does she promise him?

6. What does Porphyro observe? What does he do after seeing this?

7. What does he do when this is all set? What might this symbolize?

8. What is Madeline's reaction when she wakes?

9. What happens in the action of the poem?

10. What interpretations of the poem can you discover?

11. What Romantic elements does this poem exhibit?