

"Isabella"

1. Look at the first two stanzas. Can you see any way in which the poem formally links Isabella with Lorenzo? Look at the title and stanza 61. With what is Isabella ultimately associated?
2. In stanzas 47 and 48 Isabella digs up Lorenzo's body. Does the language here of laboring with the old nurse remind you of any other human activity? Isabella takes care of the basil pot as if it were what? Do you see any moments in the early part of the poem that foreshadow this role of Isabella's?
3. There are three moments when the narrator breaks in to discuss (for one or more stanzas) the Romance tradition from which he has drawn this tale. What are those moments? How would you characterize Keats's relation to his source? That is, how does the narrator seem to feel about resurrecting this story?
4. In stanza 49, to what might the phrase "that vision pale" refer (there are at least two major possibilities)? With this ambiguity in mind, can you see any way in which Keats's activity is akin to Isabella's? Again, looking at stanza 20, can you draw an analogy between Keats's activity and Isabella's? What are the implications of such an analogy?
5. Look at lines 367-8, 402, and 431. Can you see any way that Isabella comes to be like her brothers?
6. In stanza 20 the narrator says "There is no other crime" in his reproduction of Boccaccio's tale. In stanza 42 Isabella exclaims that "there is crime." Is there a way in which Keats resembles Isabella's brothers (notice where in the narrative his discussion of them appears in relation to his own discussions of Boccaccio and Romance)?