

**1817**

**SONG (“O BLUSH NOT SO”)**

**John Keats**

**Keats, John (1795-1821) - Widely regarded as the most talented of the English romantic poets, Keats, whose work was poorly received during his lifetime, could not have foreseen his later recognition. Ironically, he wrote for his own epitaph: "Here lies one whose name was writ in water." Song (O blush not so!) (1817) - Opening lines: O blush not so! O blush not so! / Or shall I think you knowing; ...**

**SONG****I.**

O blush not so! O blush not so!  
 Or I shall think you knowing;  
 And if you smile the blushing while,  
 Then maidenheads are going.

**II.**

There's a blush for want, and a blush for shan't,  
 And a blush for having done it:  
 There's a blush for thought and a blush for naught,  
 And a blush for just begun it.

**III.**

O sigh not so! O sigh not so!  
 For it sounds of Eve's sweet pippin;  
 By these loosen'd lips you have tasted the pips  
 And fought in an amorous nipping.

**IV.**

Will you play once more at nice-cut-core,  
 For it only will last our youth out,  
 And we have the prime of the kissing time,  
 We have not one sweet tooth out.

**V.**

There's a sigh for aye, and a sigh for nay,  
 And a sigh for I can't bear it!  
 O what can be done, shall we stay or run?  
 O cut the sweet apple and share it!

**THE END**