

**1818**

**ON SITTING DOWN TO READ KING LEAR ONCE  
AGAIN**

**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." On Sitting Down to Read King Lear Once Again (1818) - Keats wrote this poem while revising his long allegory, "Endymion." Opening line: O golden tongued Romance, with serene lute! ...**

**ON SITTING DOWN TO READ KING LEAR**

O golden tongued Romance, with serene lute!  
Fair plumed Syren, Queen of far-away!  
Leave melodizing on this wintry day,  
Shut up thine olden pages, and be mute:  
Adieu! for once again the fierce dispute  
Betwixt damnation and impassion'd clay  
Must I burn through; once more humbly assay  
The bitter-sweet of this Shakespearian fruit.  
Chief Poet! and ye clouds of Albion,  
Begetters of our deep eternal theme!  
When through the old oak Forest I am gone,  
Let me not wander in a barren dream,  
But when I am consumed in the fire,  
Give me new Phoenix wings to fly at my desire.

**THE END**