

Name _____

Date _____

Ode

An **ode** is a poem that deals with serious themes, such as justice, truth, or beauty. An ode praises or celebrates its subject, which is usually a person, event, thing, or element in nature.

Read the following ode excerpt and answer the questions.

Ode to the Tree Outside My Window

O mighty oak outside my window pane,
Standing tall through sunshine, snow, and rain,
Your branches stretch toward morning light,
A living tower of strength and might.

How many seasons have you seen come and go?
Spring buds, summer shade, autumn's golden glow.
While winter strips your branches bare,
You stand unbowed, without a care.

Birds make homes among your leaves,
Singing songs on summer eves.
Squirrels dance along your sturdy arms,
Safe from predators and harms.

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Ode

When troubles weigh upon my mind,
In your presence peace I find.
Guardian of time, teacher of patience true,
My silent friend, I honor you.

1. What type of poem is this and what are its key characteristics shown here?

2. What is being praised in this poem and what qualities are admired?

3. What emotions does the speaker express toward the subject of the poem?

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Ode-Answer Key

1. What type of poem is this and what are its key characteristics shown here?

This is an ode, a formal lyric poem that praises and celebrates a person, object, or concept. Key characteristics include the direct address to the subject ("O mighty oak"), the elevated language, formal tone, and expression of deep admiration.

2. What is being praised in this poem and what qualities are admired?

The oak tree is being praised. The poem admires the tree's strength, endurance through seasons, height/stature, ability to provide shelter for animals, and its calming presence.

3. What emotions does the speaker express toward the subject of the poem?

The speaker expresses admiration, respect, and gratitude toward the tree. There's also a sense of peace and comfort found in the tree's presence, as shown in the final stanza when the speaker calls the tree "my silent friend" and mentions finding peace.