A Thing of Beauty

In one line: a beautiful thing gives joy for ever; its loveliness grows, it never fades, and in spite of sorrow and gloom it removes the "pall" from our dark spirits and binds us to life.

Source: opening 24 lines of *Endymion: A Poetic Romance* (1818). Keats (1795-1821), English Romantic poet. Form: rhyming couplets (aabb), iambic pentameter.

Line by line

1. **Lines 1-5:** beauty is "a joy forever"; its loveliness increases; it keeps "a bower quiet for us", with sweet dreams, health and quiet breathing.
2. **Lines 6-13:** every morrow we wreathe "a flowery band to bind us to the earth", in spite of despondence, dearth of noble natures, gloomy days and dark ways; some shape of beauty "moves away the pall".
3. **Lines 13-18:** sun, moon, trees giving "a shady boon" to sheep, daffodils, clear rills making a "cooling covert".
4. **Lines 18-24:** forest brake with musk-roses, the grandeur of the mighty dead, lovely tales; "An endless fountain of immortal drink".

Beauty and sorrow

Things of beauty	Things that cause pain
Sun, moon; shady trees for sheep	Despondence
Daffodils; clear rills	Dearth of noble natures
Ferns with musk-roses	Gloomy days
Mighty dead; lovely tales	Unhealthy, o'er-darkened ways

हिंदी में भावार्थ

सुंदर वस्तु हमेशा आनंद देती है; उसकी सुंदरता बढ़ती जाती है और कभी मिटती नहीं। जीवन में निराशा, अच्छे लोगों की कमी और उदास दिन हैं, फिर भी कोई सुंदर रूप हमारी उदासी का पर्दा हटा देता है। सूरज, चाँद, पेड़, डैफोडिल, धाराएँ, गुलाब, महान लोगों की गाथाएँ और सुंदर कहानियाँ स्वर्ग से बरसते अमृत के झरने जैसी हैं।

Devices and word meanings

Device / word	Example / meaning
Metaphor	"flowery band"; "pall"; "fountain of immortal drink"
Alliteration	"band to bind"; "simple sheep"
bower / boon	shady shelter / gift
dearth / despondence	lack / despair
pall	dark cloth over a coffin; gloom
rills / brake / covert	small streams / mass of ferns / shelter

Common mistakes

- It is an excerpt from *Endymion*, not a complete poem.
- "Pall" is the cloth over a coffin; "brake" is a mass of ferns.
- Rhyme scheme: couplets (aabb), not abab.
- The "mighty dead" are great people of the past.

Practice answers

1. **What does the "flowery band" suggest?** Daily beautiful things and experiences, woven like a garland, keep us bound to life.
2. **What makes us love life in spite of troubles?** Some shape of beauty that removes the pall of sadness.
3. **Why "grandeur" with the "mighty dead"?** Great people left noble deeds and a lasting name that inspire us.
4. **Is beauty a short moment?** No; it never passes into nothingness and stays in memory.
5. **Image for the earth's bounty?** "An endless fountain of immortal drink" from heaven.