

English

# **Romanticism and Nature**

## **Lesson 10 of 10**

### **Themes in 'To A Nightingale'**

Mr Blackburn



Poor melancholy bird, that all night long  
Tell'st to the moon thy tale of tender woe;  
From what sad cause can such sweet sorrow flow,  
And whence this mournful melody of song?  
Thy poet's musing fancy would translate  
What mean the sounds that swell thy little breast,  
When still at dewy eve thou leav'st thy nest,  
Thus to the listening night to sing thy fate.  
Pale Sorrow's victims wert thou once among,  
Though now released in woodlands wild to rove;  
Say, hast thou felt from friends some cruel wrong,  
Or diedst thou – martyr of disastrous love?  
Ah, songstress sad, that such my lot might be;  
To sigh and sing at liberty, like thee!

**'To A Nightingale'  
by Charlotte Smith**



# How does Charlotte Smith communicate her feeling of being powerless?

Can you make links between Smith's life and her writing?

**“Poor melancholy bird”**

**“Thus to the listening  
night to sing thy fate.”**

**“Felt from friends some  
cruel wrong.”**

