

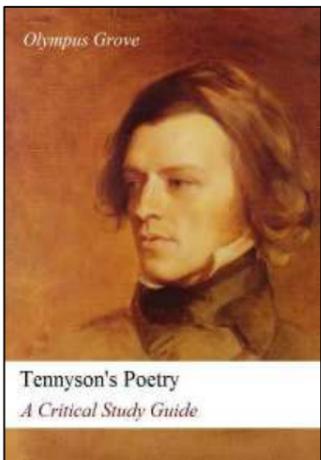


Kevin is a FLT in TAIKYU High School, He is very friendly and kind. He often spends time in Taikyuu library, so I made friends with him soon. He usually reads books, about fiction, poetry, literature. At the beginning of [HONTO], I asked him to write some sentences. He willingly accepted my offer.

“Ulysses”

A Poem About Hope and Adventure

by Kevin Blancaflor



My favorite poem is “Ulysses” by Alfred Lord Tennyson. It is a long and very difficult poem, but I think its message can inspire anyone.

The poem is about a king who had gone on many adventures and fought

In order to gain these things, the king believes that one should spend every minute of his or her life being active and seeing the world. However, he admits that this becomes more difficult the older one gets, because one’s body becomes weaker with age. The king seems to lack confidence in his physical abilities, but he trusts the strength of his spirit to carry him forward. Time, says the king, has ruined his body, but has done nothing to his soul. He still has the courage and determination he had when he was young. Because of this, the king is still young at heart and is still capable of doing heroic things.

In my opinion, this is the most important message of the poem. Strength and age are not found within a person’s body. They are things found within a person’s soul. Anyone and everyone can be strong and young forever if their hearts remain strong and young. And being a hero is not about winning. It is about doing your best, even if—*especially* if—you are not sure that you can succeed.

The message of “Ulysses” is about strength of spirit and

Strength and age are found within a person’s soul. 『Ulysses』 Kevin Blancaflor

in many wars when he was young. But now he is old and spends most of his time at home. However, the king realizes that he is unhappy with his life because he wants to be a hero again. He admits that his body is no longer strong, but he knows that his heart is still capable. So he gathers his old friends and together they leave on one last adventure across the sea. They know that this adventure may kill them, but they are happy to live their last days in excitement.

One of the most important themes of “Ulysses” is death. For the main character of the poem, death is not the end of everything. He is not afraid of death. However, he does not know what will happen after he dies. He does not know what kind of world he will go to. This is why he wants to spend the rest of his life exploring the world of the living, the world we are in right now. He wants to see and learn as much as he can about this world before going to the next. For the king, “living” is about knowing that one’s time on Earth is very limited and using all of that time to gain as much experience and knowledge as possible.



about how one should never give up. The king admits that his final journey might fail and that he might die. But for him, this journey is not about success or failure. It is about being brave and being in control of one’s life until the very end. If one is able to do this, the king believes, then there is no such thing as “failure.” There is

never shame in trying something new or dangerous if one is prepared to face the consequences, both good and bad. The only shame that exists is the shame of being too afraid to try. “Ulysses” has taught me that we can hold onto our hopes forever. It has also taught me that we should always keep our hearts young and open to adventure.