ODE

An **ode** is a form of **lyric poetry** — expressing emotion — and it's usually **addressed to someone or something**, or it represents the poet's musings on that person or thing, as Keats' ode tells us what he thought as he looked at the Grecian urn. There are several different types of odes, but they are all **highly structured** and adhere to poetic forms.

There are **three main types of odes**:

- **Pindaric ode**. Pindaric odes are named for the ancient Greek poet Pindar, who lived during the **5th century BC** and is often credited with creating the ode poetic form. A Pindaric ode consists of a strophe, an antistrophe that is melodically harmonious, and an epode. Pindaric poems are also characterized by **irregular line lengths and rhyme schemes**.
- **Horatian ode**. Named after Roman poet Horace, who lived during the **1st century**, the Horatian ode consists of **two-or four-line stanzas** that share the same meter, rhyme scheme, and length. Unlike the more formal Pindaric ode, the Horatian ode traditionally explores intimate scenes of daily life.
- **Irregular ode**. Irregular odes follow neither the Pindaric form nor the Horatian form. Irregular odes typically include rhyme, as well as irregular verse structure and stanza patterns.

Origin

late 16th century: from French, from late Latin *oda*, from Greek *ōidē*, Attic form of *aoidē* ‘song’, from *aeidein* ‘sing’.

Originating in ancient Greece, ode poems were originally performed publicly to celebrate athletic victories. Later, this poetic form was favored among English Romantic poets, who used odes to express emotions using rich, descriptive language. Today, we use the term “ode” to describe any outpouring of praise, and modern ode poems have evolved to include various styles and forms.

In ancient Greece, odes were **originally accompanied by music**—in fact, the word “ode” comes from the Greek word aeidein, which means **to sing or to chant**. Odes are often ceremonial, and formal in tone.