



Subject: **ENGLISH**

Paper: **COMMUNICATIVE ENGLISH**

Title: **La Belle Dame Sans Merci**

Author: **John Keats**

By

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Introduction

- ▶ “La Belle Dame Sans Merci” is a famous ballad written by John Keats. The title is French which means “The Beautiful Lady Without Mercy”. The poem is in the form of a conversation between the poet and a knight.

Summary

- ▶ In the poem, the poet asks the knight why he is sad and wandering alone near the lake where no green grass is left and no bird is singing. He asks him why he is tired and miserable in appearance. The poet tells him that his face is without colour and is pale like a lily. There is sweat on his forehead which indicates that he is sick. The colour of his face is fading quickly like that of a withered rose.

- ▶ The knight tells the poet that he met a beautiful lady in the meadows. She had long hair, white feet, passionate eyes. She seemed to be a fairy's child. He fell in love with her. He gifted her a garland for her head, bracelets and fragrant zone. She too responded to his love by looking at him with affection and making sweet moans. He took her along with him on his horse and they spent the whole day together.

- ▶ The lady sang melodious songs and gave the knight tasty roots, wild honey and manna- dew. She said, “I love thee true”. He could not understand the language as it was strange. She took him to her Elfin grot, a cave. She wept loudly. He kissed her eyes and shut them. She lulled him to sleep. In the dream, he saw kings, princes and warriors with pale faces. All of them warned him that the lady without mercy had held them captive. Seeing their starved lips, he woke up and found himself on the cold hill’s side. The knight says that this is the reason why he is wandering alone near the lake.