**A) John Doe I says:**

On First Looking into Chapman’s Homer

Questions 1 and 2

In “On First Looking into Chapman’s Homer”, author John Keats passionately describes the powerful impact reading Chapman’s Homer had on him. One way in which Keats conveys his awe for Chapman’s Homer is by placing it in the literary realm of great writers. He does this by using language that suggests social hierarchy and empires. For example, Keats says that he has “traveled in realms of gold”, suggesting that he has read many great things before. Furthermore Keats indicates the writer’s greatness by linking them closely to the literary god Apollo, saying many of the works he has read “bard in fealty to Apollo”.

Keats implicitly places himself among the ranks of great writers in this poem. His role in this poem is very similar to that of the great Odysseus in Homer’s Odyssey. Keats has “traveled” through many lands. Meaning he has read many literary works. In the final scene of the poem, Keats paints an image of Cortez looking onto the wild unknown pacific. This scene, too, makes Keats appear like the great Odysseus looking on to the next unknown chapter of his journey.

October 24, 2012 at 9:50 pm

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**Jane Doe says:**

I agree with John on how Keats places himself among the ranks of great writers. Likening himself to the main character of a widely accepted great work of literature (Odysseus) is enough to suggest Keats’s own ranking among these great writers. Spencer also claims that Keats means he has read a lot of great literature. I must admit I didn’t think of that before, but I can definitely see that as a possible way of interpreting the poem. Finally, I wasn’t sure about Spencer’s claim that Keats indicated the writer’s greatness by “linking them closely to the literary god Apollo.” Personally, I took the lines “Round many wester islands have I been / Which bards in fealty to Apollo hold” to mean that Keats has had first hand experience with much...
literature coming from that area and time, giving credibility to his claim that Chapman’s Homer is a very good piece of literature.

B) Submitted on 2012/12/06 at 1:46 am by Jane Doe.

“Human” The Killers

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RIZdjT1472Y

I did my best to notice
When the call came down the line
Up to the platform of surrender
I was broad but I was kind
And sometimes I get nervous
When I see an open door
Close your eyes
Clear your heart

Cut the cord

[Chorus]
Are we human?
Or are we denser?
My sign is vital
My hands are cold
And I’m on my knees
Looking for the answer
Are we human?
Or are we dancer?

Pay my respects to grace and virtue
Send my condolences to good
Give my regards to soul and romance
They always did the best they could
And so long to devotion
You taught me everything I know
Wave goodbye
Wish me well
You got to let me go

[Chorus]

Will your system be alright
When you dream of home tonight?
There is no message we’re receiving
Let me know is your heart still beating?

Are we human?
Or are we dancer?
My sign is vital
My hands are cold
And I’m on my knees
Looking for the answer

You got to let me know

[Chorus]

Are we human?
Or are we dancer?

Are we human
Or are we dancer?

This is one of my favorite songs, and I always used to listen to it with no real thought to its meaning. However, when I looked deeply at the lyrics I felt that this was a song about our our ability to live as individuals, not conformed to the rules set out by society. In my opinion the line, “Are we human or are we dancer,” sets up this argument and these words become opposing adjectives. “Dancer” represents a generation of people who live a choreographed life and are not in control to think freely and make their own decisions, as does the “human”. In the first stanza the narrator is presented with opportunity, and wants to cut the ties, as if a dancer is a puppet being controlled, in order to embrace this chance. In the seconds stanza, each aspect/value (grace, virtue, etc.) is personified and said good bye to. This allows the reader to understand that these are qualities that can be lost in the transition from “human” to “dancer”. The chorus shows the narrators need to understand the answer to this question on humanity. The world play of “my sign is vital” in addition to “my hands are cold” make me feel like the
narrator has some connection with being a human. Additionally, I felt that the narrator was praying for an answer in the chorus. This song concludes with a repetition of the questions and ultimately leaves the question unanswered.

Submitted on 2012/12/10 at 1:09 am | In reply to Jane Doe.

I too had heard this song and never though much about the lyrics and I agree with your interpretation. “Human” by the Killers is a beautiful song that questions the driving force behind life. This argument is most clearly seen in the chorus’ line “Are we human or are we dancer?”. To me, this song has an argument that is roughly equivalent to the free will vs. fate argument. Do we let society make decisions for us or do we supposedly be “human” and live our lives by our own decisions.

One thing I found interesting is the songwriters claim to let go of “romance” and “devotion”. At first it appears that he doesnt believe in them, but I think it is more nuanced. The author isnt giving up on being in love or devoting his effort to something. He’s giving up on the ideas of romance and devotion. These things are ideals that we strive for. I think the song writer is saying “Don’t try to seek romance. Try to be human and let what happens happen.”

Submitted on 2012/12/06 at 2:52 am | In reply to Jane Doe

This song was very nice and as Jane said, beautiful in it’s simplicity. The images he paints in the song are quite ambiguous and open to interpretation, but your interpretation is actually very good. I like how the “sinking boat” is their relationship and how he is empowering her with the choice of whether or not she wants to save it and direct it “home”, or back to the way it used to be. The song, especially in the way it is presented in musical form, has the potential to elicit lots of emotions from someone who has experienced a similar situation. It seems as if she chose to let the ship sink, although he keeps referring to her “hopeful voice”, so perhaps she wanted to keep the relationship alive, but letting it go had to be done and he has also somewhat accepted that even though he wanted her back.