

RAISING ACHIEVEMENT • POWER AND CONFLICT • DRILL 1

Look on my Works

The power of humans

Today: how Shelley shows that a ruler's power does not last
28 minutes

Do Now

Know

- 1 Which Romantic poet wrote 'Ozymandias'?
- 2 In the poetry question, how many poems do you write about, and which one must you quote from memory?
- 3 Which word in the first line of 'My Last Duchess' tells us the Duke has been married before?
- 4 What is a tyrant?
- 5 In one or two words each, what do AO1, AO2 and AO3 reward?

Do Now: answers

Know

1

Which Romantic poet wrote 'Ozymandias'?

Percy Bysshe Shelley

2

In the poetry question, how many poems do you write about, and which one must you quote from memory?

Two. The named poem is printed; the second poem, which you choose, comes from memory.

3

Which word in the first line of 'My Last Duchess' tells us the Duke has been married before?

"last": she is his last (most recent) Duchess, and she is dead.

4

What is a tyrant?

A ruler who uses power cruelly and answers to no one

5

In one or two words each, what do AO1, AO2 and AO3 reward?

AO1: your response, with quotations. AO2: the poet's methods. AO3: context.

Focus reminder

Know

Comparing poems about human power

The named poem is printed on the paper. You choose the second poem from the cluster and quote it from memory.

Ask what kind of power each poem shows: a ruler's, a husband's, a system's. Who has it and who suffers?

Compare inside every point with both, similarly, whereas or in contrast.

Today you plan only: a thesis and three points, each with a quotation from both poems and a comparative link.

Ozymandias

Read

Percy Bysshe Shelley · 1818 · The whole poem (a sonnet)

- 1 I met a traveller from an antique land,
Who said— “Two vast and trunkless legs of stone
Stand in the desert. . . . Near them, on the sand,
Half sunk a shattered visage lies, whose frown,
- 5 And wrinkled lip, and sneer of cold command,
Tell that its sculptor well those passions read
Which yet survive, stamped on these lifeless things,
The hand that mocked them, and the heart that fed;
And on the pedestal, these words appear:
- 10 My name is Ozymandias, King of Kings;
Look on my Works, ye Mighty, and despair!
Nothing beside remains. Round the decay
Of that colossal Wreck, boundless and bare
The lone and level sands stretch far away.”

Check your understanding

Know

- 1 Where is the statue now, and what state is it in?
- 2 Who carved the face, and what did he notice about the king?
- 3 What do the words on the pedestal tell other rulers to do?
- 4 Which short sentence turns the poem from the king's proud claim to the empty desert?

Check your understanding: answers

Know

1

Where is the statue now, and what state is it in?

In the desert. Two legs still stand; the broken face lies half sunk in the sand.

2

Who carved the face, and what did he notice about the king?

The sculptor. He saw the king's pride and cruelty and carved them into the stone.

3

What do the words on the pedestal tell other rulers to do?

Look at his works and despair, because they could never match him.

4

Which short sentence turns the poem from the king's proud claim to the empty desert?

"Nothing beside remains." (line 12)

Quotation explosion

Apply

"sneer of cold command"

Copy the quotation into the middle of your page. Explode it: answer each question around it.

Explode it

Apply

AO1

What does this phrase tell us about the kind of ruler Ozymandias was?

AO2

What does the noun “sneer” suggest?

AO2

Which sounds repeat in “cold command”, and what do they add?

AO3

Shelley opposed kings and tyrants. Why might he want readers to see this face broken in the sand?

Explosion: answers

Apply

AO1

What does this phrase tell us about the kind of ruler Ozymandias was?

He was proud and cold. He ruled by giving orders and looked down on the people beneath him.

AO2

What does the noun “sneer” suggest?

A sneer is a look of contempt. Even broken, the face still shows how he scorned everyone else.

AO2

Which sounds repeat in “cold command”, and what do they add?

The hard c sound (alliteration) is sharp and clipped, like a barked order.

AO3

Shelley opposed kings and tyrants. Why might he want readers to see this face broken in the sand?

As a Romantic writing in 1818, he shows that even the greatest ruler’s power ends. It is a warning to rulers of his own time.

Comparative connectives

Technique

Words such as both, similarly, whereas and in contrast link two poems inside one sentence, so you compare as you go.

“Look on my Works, ye Mighty, and despair!”

Your task Write one sentence that links this proud claim to the Duke’s “I gave commands”. Use whereas or similarly.

The question

Plan

Compare how poets present ideas about power in 'Ozymandias' and in one other poem from 'Power and conflict'.

Today: plan your answer. No essay. About 9 minutes.

Plan it

Plan

Plan

1. Today: plan your answer in 9 minutes. No essay. Write a thesis, then three points with a quotation from both poems in each.
2. Partner poem: 'My Last Duchess'. Both show a proud ruler through a work of art: a statue and a portrait.
3. Three points: pride, control of other people, and what is left of their power.

Top tips

- Name both poems and both poets in your thesis.
- Learn short quotations from your partner poem: three or four words is enough.
- Put context inside a point (Shelley and tyranny, the real Duke of Ferrara), never in a paragraph of its own.

Your turn

9 minutes

Today: plan your answer in 9 minutes. No essay. Write a thesis, then three points with a quotation from both poems in each.

Model plan

Master

Thesis: Both Shelley and Browning show proud rulers through works of art, but Shelley's king has lost his power to time, whereas Browning's Duke still uses his to control and destroy.

Point 1 (pride): Ozymandias calls himself "King of Kings" and orders the "Mighty" to "despair"; similarly, the Duke brags about his "nine-hundred-years-old name". Both speak in commands.

Point 2 (control): the "sneer of cold command" shows a king who ruled through fear; the Duke controls even who sees his wife's face: "none puts by / The curtain I have drawn for you, but I".

Point 3 (what lasts): the volta, "Nothing beside remains", turns the proud claim into empty desert. In contrast, "I gave commands; / Then all smiles stopped together" shows the Duke's power is still alive, and his next wife is in danger.

Context: Shelley the Romantic hated tyranny; Browning based the Duke on a real Renaissance Duke of Ferrara.

Have a go: My Last Duchess

[Read](#)

Robert Browning · Lines 45 to 47

- 1 Much the same smile? This grew; I gave commands;
Then all smiles stopped together. There she stands
As if alive. Will't please you rise? We'll meet

Have a go

Practise

Read these lines from 'My Last Duchess'. Answer in two or three sentences.

How is the Duke's power different from what is left of Ozymandias's power? Use one quotation from each poem.

Green pen

Check your work and improve it in green pen.



My thesis names both poems and one clear difference.



Each point has a quotation from both poems.



I linked the poems in every point with a comparative connective.



I added one piece of context that explains a poet's purpose.