

Look on my Works

The power of humans • How Shelley shows that a ruler's power does not last

Name:

Class:

Date:

Do Now

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?

Read

Ozymandias • 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

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?

Quotation explosion

"sneer of cold command"

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?

Comparative connectives

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

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

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

My argument (thesis)

Point 1 + quotation	
Point 2 + quotation	
Point 3 + quotation	
Context to use	

Have a go

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

My Last Duchess · 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

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

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.

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