

'Ozymandias' by Percy Bysshe Shelley

Summarise what the poem is about in full sentences:

Annotate the poem with points you can remember from your initial study:

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,
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:
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."

Complete the following questions:

- 1) Percy Bysshe Shelley is known as a Romantic poet. What does this mean?
- 2) 'Ozy' comes from the Greek 'ozium' which means either 'to breathe' or 'air'. 'Mandias' comes from the Greek 'mandate' which means 'to rule'. How can we relate this information to what Shelley is saying in the poem?
- 3) Why do you think Shelley picks a statue as a metaphor for power?

Complete each analytical verb with a different idea:

Percy Bysshe Shelley may have written the poem:

to criticise

to teach

to warn

to reveal the importance of

to celebrate



Annotate the following quotations by answering the questions for each:

- 1) What does the line mean?
- 2) What does the line suggest?
- 3) How has Shelley used language to present power in 'Ozymandias'?

'sneer of cold command'

'My name is Ozymandias, King of Kings'

'Nothing beside remains'

'Round the decay of that colossal wreck, boundless and bare'

How does Percy Bysshe Shelley present power in 'Ozymandias'?

Answer in full sentences.

