



Year Level: Year 8/9

Genre: Poem

Ozymandias

Percy Bysshe Shelly

*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.*

QUESTIONS:

Main Idea (MI)

1) This poem is about...

- a) an encounter between the narrator and a traveller.
- b) a pile of rubble.
- c) a crumbling relic of Ozymandias (Ramses II).
- d) the craftsman who sculpted the statue of Ozymandias.

Conclusions and Inferences (CI)

2) What kind of person was Ozymandias?

- a) a powerful and arrogant king
- b) depressed and cynical
- c) religious and overzealous
- d) artistic and visionary

Sequencing (S)

3) Who is the second speaker in 'Ozymandias'?

- a) the narrator, Shelley
- b) the traveller
- c) Ozymandias
- d) the sculptor

Cause and Effect (CE)

- 4) The once-great king's proud boast has been ironically disproved because...
- a) his civilisation is gone.
 - b) he was subjected to the elements.
 - c) the sculptor sabotaged his work.
 - d) his statue and powerful legacy now lie in ruin.

Comparing and Contrasting (CC)

- 5) What two things are compared in Shelley's famous political sonnet?
- a) The decaying ruin of the statue in the desert wasteland and the proud king's arrogant inscription.
 - b) The former glory of ancient Egypt and 'the lone and level sands'.
 - c) Ozymandias's tyrannical power and the subservient sculptor.
 - d) The once glorious statue and the colossal wreck.

Predicting (P)

- 6) What do you think Ozymandias would say if he saw his crumbling statue?
- a) If I were alive, this Empire of savages would quake and weep.
 - b) What a colossal wreck!
 - c) Woe is me to see how the mighty Ozymandias, King of Kings, hath fallen.
 - d) Who has surpassed my works?

Word in Context (WC)

- 7) What attitude is implied by Shelley's phrase 'a sneer of cold command'?
- a) pity over the sculptor's fate
 - b) glee over the statue's decay
 - c) sympathy towards the pharaoh who had to pose for hours
 - d) contempt and ridicule towards the pharaoh and his arrogant boast on his pedestal

Conclusion and Inferencing (CI)

- 8) The reason Shelly uses alliteration and repetition in his sonnet is...
- a) because his creative juices were running low.
 - b) to ensure his audience understood the importance of Ramses II.
 - c) to illustrate that even those who were once mighty are eventually forgotten.
 - d) to allude to the cyclical nature of history.

Fact and Opinion (FO)

- 9) Shelley's poem is written in iambic pentameter, where each line has five pairs of syllables. The first syllable of each pair is unstressed, while the second is stressed.
- a) True
 - b) False

Author's Purpose (AP)

10) The poet's message is that...

- a) the almighty power and majesty of a king does not last.
- b) the pharaoh's servant, the sculptor, has the last laugh.
- c) the crumbling statue symbolised the pharaoh's power and glory.
- d) everyone should travel to ancient lands like Egypt.

Figurative Language (FL)

11) The phrase 'a shattered visage lies' is...

- a) referring to the statue's frowning mask.
- b) portraying Ozymandias's lifeless body.
- c) an example of irony as this once powerful pharaoh now lies in ruins.
- d) representing the desert near Thebes, Egypt's old capital.

Summarising (SM)

12) Select the most accurate summary of Shelly's poem.

- a) Analogies can be made between political leaders in modern history and Ozymandias (Ramses II).
- b) The destructive force of political power cannot be underestimated.
- c) Desert wastelands are unforgiving.
- d) 'Ozymandias' is a metaphor for the ephemeral or fleeting nature of political power.