

Ozymandias

Power

- power of humans
- power of nature

Sonnet Form

- three types of sonnet
- shows how all power eventually gives way to new power

Language

- commanding and imperative
- "cold command" → alliteration, unwelcoming, aggressive
- Bathos → writer builds up an image and then smashes it
- "stamped" "lifeless" "mocked"

Irony

- Ozymandias' statue crumbling
- whilst the king doesn't last, the artists capture the arrogance of the king
- "the hand that mock'd them and the heart that fear'd" → perhaps the artist wanted Ozymandias made fun of
- "shattered visage" → powerful ruler cannot control the damaging effects of time
- "the decay of the colossal wreck" → ruined statue shows how human achievements are insignificant compared to the passing of time

Key Quotes

- "king of kings" → repetition and juxtaposition. The repetition of kings shows the arrogance of Ozymandias. The poem undermines him when he is compared to the crumbling ruins. It shows that he did not last forever like he thought he would.
- "Nothing besides remains" → The caesura highlights how Ozymandias is no longer known and feared despite his arrogance. The clear and blunt language could suggest how the narrator is unsympathetic towards Ozymandias.

Poems that link well:

- Kamikaze → memory of individual and power of past
- My Last Duchess → powerful individual
- Prelude → nature vs man. Pride and glory
- Exposure → power of nature
- London → power of humans
- Storm on the isle → power of nature