

My Last Duchess

Power

- power of identity
- abusing his power

Narrative Voice

- use of dramatic monologue form privileges the Duke's point of view and grants him power over the reader
- distant from the Duchess
- direct address to reader "Oh, sir" lure us into the speaker's misogyny

Possessive Language

- "Neptune, though taming a sea-horse" → metaphor of how he saw women. He dominates the women
- Painting is hidden. Duke didn't like it when the Duchess smiled at other people. Curtain in front of painting of wife so he can control the smiles and keep them for himself
- he is in control
- "Will't please you sit and look at her?" → speaker how power over the reader

Ekphrasis

- This poem is a form of ekphrasis (when you write inspired by art)
- the Duchess is objectified into a painting
- "pictured countenance" the image is valued more than the Duchess
- dismissive tone
- "by design" "such a glance"

Key Quotes

- "E'en then would be some stooping and I chose never to stoop" → chooses never to give up his power
- "That spot of joy" → shows how the Duke was jealous and how bothered he was when she got attention. The Duke likes to know he is in control and ~~like~~ likes to know he has the power over the Duchess.

Poems that link well:

- Checking Out My History → abuse of power and identity

London → power of humans

Prelude → memory, power

Kamikaze → powerful speaker vs. powerless subject

Ozymandias → powerful individual