

# CHALLENGE GRID

# OZYMANDIAS BY SHELLEY

In your opinion, as a leader, was Ozymandias gracious or contemptuous? Charismatic or conceited? Callous or sympathetic?

Ozymandias was one of Egypt's most famous pharaohs – Ramses II or Ramses the Great. Shelley was critical of royalty and their purpose- how is this evident?

Sonnets were usually used to declare love or idealisation for something. How is this juxtaposed by this poem?

Explore the juxtaposition of the 'colossal wreck.' How is it possible that Ozymandias is both colossal and a wreck, metaphorically speaking?

Consider the inclusion of Ozymandias's voice: '...king of kings: Look on my works, ye Mighty, and despair!' How is this line a) intimidating or b) laughable?

The speaker is a storyteller and the tale is third hand; the speaker heard it from a traveller who had seen the sculpture. Does this make Ozymandias' reputation just a rumour or notorious?

Shelley married Mary Shelley, author of Frankenstein. How might the greed of men explore in the novel be also explored here?

Finish and develop the sentence: Shelley highlights that power is...

Shelley was a Romanticist, expelled from University for writing about atheism and disowned by his father. How is this a poem about not conforming?

Is Ozymandias portrayed as powerful or vulnerable? Argue both sides of the argument.

The rhyme within the poem is disjointed (the words are slightly 'off') How does this reflect the portrayal of Ozymandias?

How does, 'the hand that mocked them,' depict Ozymandias as a leader? Why do you think this is contrasted with, 'the heart that fed'?

**Meaning**

**Context**

**Structure**

**Language**

How many points can you accumulate in twenty minutes? Use short, direct quotations to extend ideas.

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# London by William Blake

Why are the individuals described within the poem either desperate or lacking in compassion?

Name three typical jobs in Victorian London and explain this information is relevant to the poem.

What do each of the four quatrains show us about London? Draw a picture for each to explore your ideas. How is the final one most powerful?

How does the imagery used within the line, 'Runs in blood down Palace walls' depict London, or even England at the time?

How do the people of London feel the effect of the 'charter'd' streets?

How does the regular iambic pentameter reflect the ideas within the poem?

How successful was Britain at the time of Blake writing?

How might 'every' person feel, working for little money and in such dangerous conditions?

How might the richer classes have reacted to Blake's poem? Why might this be?

How could London be relevant today?

Where is juxtaposition used within the poem? Choose the best example and explore.

Explore the imagery used within the line, 'mind-forged manacles I hear.' Why 'hear' and not 'see'?

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## Extract from, The Prelude by William Wordsworth

Is the poem more about nature or man?

'The Prelude' is based on a real memory from Wordsworth's childhood. He often explores how memories have affected people. How has this memory affected him?

The poem is a blank verse epic. Explain the significance of this form.

How does Wordsworth use different kinds of light and darkness to create different effects?

"a huge peak, black and huge"- Why has Wordsworth used this repetition? How does the organisation of this sentence add to the revelation?

How does the regular iambic pentameter reflect the ideas within the poem?

The Romantics were very concerned with Nature and did not believe that man had authority over nature but the other way around. How is this shown in 'The Prelude'?

Explain how the words below link to the poem:

- Isolation
- Contemplation
- Perturbed
- Anguish

How does Wordsworth harness the Romantic belief in the intense power of the imagination in this poem?

How significant is the title of the poem?

How does the poet create a conversational tone and how is it important?

Does the reader feel sympathetic for the speaker by the end of the poem?

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## *My Last Duchess by Robert Browning*

<p>Do you think the view we get of the Duchess is fair? Explain your ideas.</p>	<p>The real Duke Alfonso II's last duchess was Lucrezia de' Medici, who died in suspicious circumstances after two years of marriage. How does Browning hint at these suspicious circumstances?</p>	<p>Explain the significance of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- The dramatic monologue</li><li>- The unreliable narrator</li><li>- The rhyming couplets</li></ul>	<p>"Fra" means brother which suggests the artist is a monk or religious figure. Explain the significance of "Fra Pandolf".</p>
<p>"Her looks went everywhere"- explain this quote.</p>	<p>In what way does the second person impact on the reader's reaction?</p>	<p>How does this poem reflect the changing in women's roles that were happening in the Victorian era? How is it a criticism of Victorian society's attitude to women?</p>	<p>Finish and develop the sentence: Browning highlights the craving for power...</p>
<p>How does this poem reflect Browning's life in Italy?</p>	<p>Explain the significance of the title.</p>	<p>Explain the significance of the line structure – does each line end with punctuation? Why? What effect does this create?</p>	<p>"Even had you skill in speech (which I have not)"- how is this ironic? What does it reveal about the Duke?</p>

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## The Charge of the Light Brigade by Tennyson

Are the soldiers shown to be patriotic or just blind obedient in this poem? Explain.

The Crimean War was the first war to be documented in mass media. How does Tennyson allude to this in his poem?

How is this poem story like?

Pick out the biblical allusion in the poem and explain its purpose.

What refrain (repeated line) is used in the poem and what is its effect?

This poem uses rhyming couplets and triplets, but sometimes they are broken by unrhymed lines. What could this reflect?

At this time, there were basic guns and cannons. However, the light brigade were very lightly equipped, more for scouting or attacking from the back or sides. How does Tennyson show that the LB didn't stand a chance?

Summarise what happens in each of the stanzas.

Tennyson was poet laureate until he died which meant that he could not question British systems. However, how could his poem be seen to covertly question those in/with power?

Pick out all the words which portray the soldiers as valiant.

The line "some one had blunder'd" breaks the dactylic metre. What does this emphasise?

In COTLB, how does Tennyson use sound to recreate the battle?

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## Exposure by Wilfred Owen

What could the title be referring to?

When Owens wrote this poem it was the coldest winter on record. How does this poem reflect this?

What does the rhyme scheme ABBAC reflect?

Explain the quote “like a dull rumour of some other war”.

How does the language used to describe the movement of the weather contrast with the language used to describe the movement of the men?

Why is this poem written in the first person plural?

Wilfred Owen lost his faith during his lifetime. This sense of hopelessness & loss of God is present in his poem. What quote reflects this loss of faith?

Do you think the poem’s tone changes at all? Why?

Owen was a soldier and officer in WW1. He witnessed the horrors of front line warfare and criticised those who thought war was honourable. What quotes show this criticism and pity?

Explain how the words below link to ‘Exposure’:

- Injustice
- Frustration
- Interrogation
- Dispirited
- Disillusioned

The rhythm of the poem is inconsistent. What effect does this have on the reader? What does it reflect about the soldiers’ experience?

How is sibilance used in the first stanza?

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## *Storm on the Island by Seamus Heaney*

Explain how the words below link to the poem:

- Turmoil
- Chaos
- Longevity
- Empowering

The poem is written in blank verse (unrhymed iambic pentameter) – a form used by literary greats in their Epic Poems. What could Heaney want to reflect by this choice of form?

Heaney uses half-rhyme both at the beginning and the end of the poem which gives the poem a cyclical structure. What could this suggest about the storm?

How formal is the poem? Why?

Search the 'Storm of the Island' for verbs. Can you put them into groups? What patterns do you see?

Think about the structure of this poem. How does it progress and develop? What is the effect of punctuation here?

The poem could be linked to Ireland's political troubles (between the Catholics and Protestants). Explain this link.

Complete and extend the sentences: 'This poem shows power because...'  
'This poem shows conflict because...'

He enjoyed writing about very normal and homely subjects, perhaps to give his poems universality. How is this universality achieved in 'Storm on the Island'?

How does the reaction to the storm change throughout the poem?

The poem is one stanza and has lack of rhyme (However, there is some half-rhyme). What could this reflect?

Why does Heaney use the first person plural throughout the poem?

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## Bayonet Charge by Ted Hughes

Is the soldier portrayed as vulnerable or powerful? Argue both sides of the argument.

Hughes writes about the elements and aspects of the natural world in much of his poetry. How is this reflected through 'Bayonet Charge'?

The poem is written in free verse. How is ironic when compared to the soldier's situation? How could this also be fitting?

Consider the use of the verbs "stumbling" and "dazzled" in the first stanza and the use of "plunged" in the last stanza.

Explain the significance of the "yellow hare". What does the hare represent to the soldier? Why is it included for?

How does the irregular rhythm reflect the soldier's struggle?

What would some of the motivations be for enlisting? How does Hughes dismiss these reasons in this poem?

Complete the sentence: 'Bayonet Charge' shows the futility of war through...

Hughes was an avid fan of WW1 poet, Wilfred Owen. The first line of 'Bayonet Charge' alludes to one of Owen's poems. How does this portray the indescribable horrors of war?

The poem is ambiguous and difficult to read. How does the reader's experience reflect the soldier's struggle?

How does the caesura on line one ("-raw") reflect the situation of the soldier?

The rich descriptions contrast with where the soldier is heading ("green hedge") - a simple, almost childish description. Why does he do this?

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## Remains by Simon Armitage

How does Armitage explore the theme of conflict from both a physical and mental perspective?

Name three symptoms of PTSD and then pick out three quotations from this poem which show these symptoms.

How does the structure of the poem reflect the breakdown of the speaker's mind?

Explore the line "probably armed, possibly not". How does the syntactical positioning of the adverbs give the reader an element of doubt.

How does Armitage make the war setting uncomfortable for the reader?

Why does Armitage use enjambment and caesurae throughout this poem?

Armitage's poem has contextual links with contemporary and historical references to war and the effects. What other poems is this evident in?

Finish and develop the sentence: Armitage highlights that conflict...

Although this poem is based on a British soldier who served in Iraq, this poem could be applied to any soldier and any war. How does he do this?

Write a sentence which explains how each of these words link to the poem:

- Bereft
- Traumatized
- Conflicted

This poem starts *in media res* what effect does this have on reader? What questions do readers then ask?

How does Armitage use language to create realism through this poem?

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## *Poppies* by Jane Weir

<p>Is the poem about a mother-son relationship or about war? Explain your answer.</p>	<p>The poem is based very heavily around the idea of Poppies as memorials. How does this help to convey one of the poem's key themes?</p>	<p>This poem uses dramatic monologue. How does this help convey the mother's loss?</p>	<p>Explain the line "flattened, rolled, turned into felt". How could the felt be a metaphor for grief?</p>
<p>How is the quote "an ornamental stitch" reflective of the mother's feelings?</p>	<p>Despite the poem being in chronological order, the poem's time frame is ambiguous- how?</p>	<p>Weir has commented that she likes the adventure of "cross dressing" in terms of her use of language, often borrowing from the "language of other genres, be it fashion, art...". How does this poem achieve this?</p>	<p>Explain how each of the words below link to the poem:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Vulnerability</li><li>- Supressed</li><li>- Abandonment</li></ul>
<p>Weir has stated that "this poem attempts on one level to address feminine experience and is consciously a political act." Explain this idea.</p>	<p>The poem is ambiguous. It does not explicitly say what happened to the son. Find quotations to support:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- The idea that he has died</li><li>- The idea that he is still alive</li></ul>	<p>The poem uses a enjambment and caesurae. What do these show about how the mother is feeling?</p>	<p>How does the contrasting images/language throughout this poem help the reader empathise with the mother?</p>

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## War Photographer by Carol Ann Duffy

Explain how the words below link to the poem:

- Detachment
- Indelible
- Profound
- Frustration

Old style photographic film is very sensitive to light, so it must be done in a dark room lit with red light. How does this atmosphere add to the sinister element of the poem?

The rhyme scheme of the poem is ABBCDD. What two things could this reflect?

This poem is a series of contrasts. List some of the contrasts and explain the effect.

Why does Duffy use religious imagery throughout the poem?

How could this poem be viewed as cyclic? What does this suggest about the photographer's work and efforts?

Duffy states "Those photographs are in the background but I'm more interested in the photographer." How successful is she at focusing on the photographer?

What is the overall effect of the poem on the reader?

Duffy says she is interested in the difficult decisions photographers might have to make while taking pictures in a war zone. Do you think she admires their job? Why/why not?

Who is referred to in the quote "they do not care"? Think of three ideas.

What could the use of enjambments in the third stanza reflect? Think of two interpretations.

Explore the quotation "the blood stained into foreign dust".

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## Tissue by Imtiaz Dharker

Explain how the words below connect to 'Tissue':

- Contemplation
- Transient
- Immortality

Dharker's poems explore religion, terrorism and global politics/identity- which of these ideas are explored in 'Tissue'?

Why is the last line isolated?  
What effect does it have on the reader?

Why does Dharker use references to light throughout the poem?

Explain why "smoothed and stroked" is a repeated line in this poem.

There are ten stanzas in this poem which build up layers. How does this reflect the poem's message?

How is Dharker's experiences with different cultures (UK and Pakistan etc.) shown through this poem?

Explain the paradox in this poem.

Dharker's husband lost his life to cancer. This event could be seen to influence the idea of the fragility of human life in this poem. Pick a quote which reflects this idea.

How effective is the title of the poem?

What is the purpose of the enjambment in this poem?

Identify and explain the extended metaphor in this poem.

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## The Emigrée by Carol Rumens

<p>Explain how these words connect to the poem:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Yearning</li><li>- Pariah</li><li>- Displaced</li></ul>	<p>According to the critic Ben Wilkinson, Rumens has a 'fascination with elsewhere'. How is this reflected in the poem?</p>	<p>Why does Rumens use caesuras in the last stanza?</p>	<p>How does Rumens show the power of the place through the use of metaphors?</p>
<p>What is the significance of the definite article ('the') in the title?</p>	<p>What does the free verse reflect?</p>	<p>What does "emigrée" mean?</p>	<p>How does the poem explore the conflicting emotions between person and place?</p>
<p>Throughout history, people have had to go into exile because of a change of regime or natural disaster. How does Rumens allow this poem to be applied to any of these situations?</p>	<p>Justify both of the ideas below:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- 'The Emigrée' is about a real city</li><li>- 'The Emigrée' is about childhood</li></ul>	<p>The poem has two eight-lined stanzas and one nine-lined stanza. What could this reflect about the emigrée?</p>	<p>How does Rumens use references to light within this poem?</p>

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## Checking Out Me History

by John Agard

<p>Explain the link between the words below and the poem:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Re-appropriation</li> <li>- Marginalised</li> <li>- Self-identification</li> </ul>	<p>Agard references a book published in 1930 that parodies history with fictional stories – why might he have done this?</p>	<p>How is the rhyme used within this poem?</p>	<p>“Bandage up me eye with me own history/Blind me to me own/Identity”. What are the connotations of “bandage” and “blind”</p>
<p>Why does Agard use intertextual references throughout this poem?</p>	<p>Why has the poet decided to write about this subject in non-standard English?</p>	<p>How does Agard create his own accent in this poem?</p>	<p>How does the poet feel about culture- celebratory or angry?</p>
<p>John Agard was born in Guyana, a Caribbean country in South America, but he moved to Britain in 1977. How does this poem reflect this?</p>	<p>Is this poem more about power or conflict? Explain.</p>	<p>How does the poem’s structure reflect the persona’s pride in his history? How does the lack of punctuation allow the reader to reflect on how the speaker feels in English culture?</p>	<p>‘Dem tell me’- Explain the importance of this quotation.</p>

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## Kamikaze by Beatrice Garland

Explain how each of the words below link to the poem:

- Trepidation
- Shame
- Anguish
- Turmoil
- Brutality

Garland states “poetry is a way of talking about how each of us sees, is touched by, grasps, and responds to our own different worlds and the people in them.” How does ‘Kamikaze’ challenge the reader’s preconceptions about kamikaze pilots?

The poem is narrated mostly in third person with some speech from the daughter. The reader never hears from the pilot. What does this reflect?

Why does Garland use rich natural imagery in this poem?

What connections can be drawn between the fish and the plane?

How does the tight six-line stanzas reflect the military? How is this then undermined through the use of enjambment and free verse?

Japan is known as ‘the land of the rising sun’, where is this shown in the poem?

Is this poem more about power or conflict? Explain your ideas.

Kamikaze pilots were on suicide missions, and their sacrifice was seen as both a religious and patriotic obligation. What line reflects this idea in ‘Kamikaze’?

What four generations are spoken in this poem?

The poem’s first end-stopped line comes after “a tuna, the dark prince, muscular, dangerous.”, what is the significance of this?

Do the words used in the poem have more positive or negative connotations? What does this reflect?

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