

A. Answer in one or two words.

1. Which king is referred to in the poem 'Ozymandias of Egypt'?

Ramesses II

2. What type of a poem is 'Ozymandias of Egypt'?

Sonnet

3. Who is the speaker in the poem?

Traveller

4. Who tells the poet about the shattered statue?

Traveller

5. Name the collection of poetry in which 'Ozymandias of Egypt' got first published.

The Examiner

B. Answer in a few words.

1. What is the rhyme scheme of 'Ozymandias of Egypt'?

ABABACDC EDEFEF

2. What is ironic about the inscription on the pedestal of Ozymandias's statue?

It boasts of power, but the statue is ruined and forgotten.

3. What is the only thing remaining in the vast desert?

The shattered statue's ruins.

4. Who was Ozymandias?

An ancient Egyptian king, Ramesses II.

5. What quality of Ozymandias does the narrator represent?

Pride and arrogance.

C. Answer briefly in your own words.

1. Write a brief note on the theme of 'transience of power' as discussed in the poem.

The poem conveys that no matter how powerful a ruler is, their power does not last forever. Ozymandias once ruled a mighty kingdom, but now only broken remnants of his statue remain, buried in the vast desert, showing that time outlasts all human achievements.

2. 'The hand that mocked them, and the heart that fed'. Whose hand and heart has the poet referred to in this line?

This line refers to the sculptor. The "hand" symbolizes the artist's skill in shaping the statue, while the "heart" represents his understanding of Ozymandias's prideful nature, which he captured in the expression.

3. How does the poet describe the expression on Ozymandias's face?

The poet describes it as a proud and commanding look, with a sneer that reflects the king's arrogance. Although the statue is damaged, the sculptor's depiction of Ozymandias's character is still clear on the remains.

D. Answer in detail.

1. Bring out the central idea contained in the poem 'Ozymandias of Egypt' by P.B. Shelley..

The poem '*Ozymandias of Egypt*' by P.B. Shelley explores the inevitable decline of all human power and achievements over time. Through the image of a ruined statue in a barren desert, Shelley emphasizes the theme that no matter how mighty or influential a ruler might be, their legacy will eventually fade. The poem begins with a traveler describing the remains of a massive statue of Ozymandias, a once-great king. The pedestal of the statue bears an inscription boasting of his greatness and power: "*Look on my Works, ye Mighty, and despair!*" However, the scene surrounding the statue tells a different story. The statue is shattered, and the surrounding land is empty and desolate.

This contrast between Ozymandias's proud declaration and the ruined state of his monument reveals the central irony and message of the poem: time is the ultimate force that diminishes all earthly achievements. Even the strongest empires and proudest rulers cannot escape the erasing power of time and nature. Shelley uses this imagery to suggest that human pride, arrogance, and the desire for immortal legacy are futile.

In a broader sense, the poem warns against the illusion of permanence and challenges the idea that political or personal power can withstand the test of time. It is a timeless reflection on the fragility of human ambition and the fleeting nature of fame and glory.

2. Identify the figures of speech in the poem.

The poem 'Ozymandias' contains several figures of speech, including:

Irony: The inscription on the statue claims Ozymandias's greatness, yet the surrounding scene shows decay and emptiness, which directly contradicts the message.

Alliteration: Repetition of consonant sounds, such as in "cold command", adds rhythm and emphasis.

Imagery: Vivid descriptions like "boundless and bare / The lone and level sands stretch far away" help readers visualize the desolate setting.

Synecdoche: The use of "hand" and "heart" represents the sculptor as a whole person.

Personification: The poem gives human qualities to lifeless things, such as the "sneer of cold command" remaining on the face of the statue.

Metaphor: The statue itself symbolizes the fleeting nature of power and human legacy.

These devices together enhance the poem's message and make its theme more impactful.