



INDIAN SCHOOL DARSAIT DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH



Subject : English

Topic: **OZYMANDIAS**

Worksheet No. :10

Date : _____

Name of the Student : _____ Class & Division : _____ Roll Number : _____

Read the extracts given below and answer the questions that follow :

Marks

1. *'The hand that mocked them, and the heart that fed;
And on the pedestal these words appear:
My name is Ozymandias, king of kings'* 4

(a) Whom does the hand and heart refer to?

Ans : 'The hand refers to the sculptor and heart' refers to a king called Ozymandias, who ruled over a powerful kingdom.

(b) How did the king look after his people?

Ans: The king fed his people but was not bothered for their welfare or happiness.

(c) What quality of Ozymandias is revealed in the last line?

Ans: He was cruel and selfish and considered himself to be the mightiest. He was conceited and intoxicated with his power.

(d) What literary device does the poet use in the last line?

Ans: Hyperbole, as the phrase King of kings is exaggeration of the power Ozymandias held.

2. *'Look upon my works, ye mighty and despair!'* 4

(a) Whom does the poet refer to as mighty?

Ans : Any other person who considers himself as mighty.

(b) How does he challenge the mighty?

Ans: King Ozymandias throws a challenge to other people who consider themselves mighty to compare their achievements with his and then only consider themselves to be mighty.

(c) What message is conveyed in the poem Ozymandias?

Ans: All great achievements, vanity, pride, etc. crumble and get destroyed, civilizations disappear with time, so man should not be proud.

(d) Name the poem and the poet.

Ans: Ozymandias by PB Shelly.

3. *'And wrinkled lip, and sneer of cold command
Tell that its sculptor well those passions read.'* 4

(a) What lies in the sand and how?

Ans : Two vast legs of stone with a body, and massive, crumbling and broken stone-head lies half sunk, in the sand.

(b) How does the shattered visage look?

Ans : The shattered visage had a bitter and cruel expression of sneer and cold command.

(c) What does the face tell us about the sculptor?

Ans : The bitter and cruel expressions on the face of the statue tell us that the sculptor had understood the passions of his subject very well.

(d) What literary device does the poet use in the last line?

Ans: Anastrophe/Inversion, inversion of the normal word order.

Short answer questions(30-40 words):

- a. How did the poet come to know about the broken statue of Ozymandias? 2

Ans : The poet was told the story of Ozymandias by a speaker who had met a traveller from an ancient land. The story and the condition of Ozymandias' statue is conveyed by word of mouth. This adds a touch of mystery to the statue.

- b. In what condition was the statue found?

Ans : The statue of Ozymandias was found in a distant desert. The head of the statue was broken and nearby two vast legs of stone stand without a body. The head is half sunk in the sand. The statue has a bitter and cruel expression of command and power.

- c. What was inscribed on the pedestal?What did it indicate?

Ans : On the pedestal of the statue the words inscribed were, "My name is Ozymandias, I am the king of kings. If anyone wishes to know how great I am, then let him surpass my works." These words indicate the arrogance and pride of the king. The king appeared to laugh at people who were weak and helpless.

- d. Describe the surroundings of the statue of Ozymandias?

Ans : The broken statue of Ozymandias was surrounded by vast stretches of sand and loneliness of deserts. These ruins prove that the king's work and civilization has crumbled to dust. Nothing lasts forever, loneliness and neglect convey a feeling of crumbling under the cruel knife of time.

- e. What does the partially destroyed statue of Ozymandias symbolise?

Ans : Ozymandias was arrogant, proud and was intoxicated with power. His partially destroyed statue, half buried in sand, bears a testimony to the fact that nothing lasts

forever. This is the true destiny of man, and the passage of time proves to be a great leveller.

LONG ANSWER QUESTIONS(-120100 words)

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1. **'The poem Ozymandias illustrates the vanity of human greatness'. Discuss with reference to the lines given below.**

"My name is Ozymandias, king of kings: look upon my works, ye Mighty, despair! Nothing beside remains. Round the decay of that colossal wreck, boundless and bare. The lone and level sands stretch far away."

Ans. Ozymandias is a sonnet by P.B. Shelley. It conveys the idea that human glory and greatness are short lived. Time works havoc with monuments and statues made by the kings to immortalize their name and fame. Thus, the poem depicts the fertility of human glory and greatness.

Ozymandias was a great Egyptian king. He made his statue to immortalize his name and fame. With the passage of time his glory and greatness disappeared. His life-like statue lay in ruins in a desert.

A traveler from Egypt notices the broken statue of the king Ozymandias. He finds two huge and trunk less legs of the statue standing on a platform in a lonely desert. Near them lies, half-buried, the broken face of the statue. He sees the expression of arrogance and sense of authority on the face of the statue. It was the artist's hand which reproduced the king's feelings on the face of the statue. But it was the king's heart which nourished those feelings in his heart. The following words were written on the pedestal:

'My name is Ozymandias, king of kings'

The words reflect that Ozymandias was a king of kings but he did not realize that the human pride and arrogance cannot live long. There is no trace of his kingdom or greatness anywhere.

2. Give the character-sketch of king Ozymandias as depicted in the poem.

Ans : King Ozymandias considered himself to be the king of kings. He ruled over his empire with a firm hand. He fed his subjects but regarded them as inferior. He was boastful of his power and considered himself to be above all. He believed that no one will ever be able to equal his achievements. He considered himself to be blessed with extraordinary powers. The king was so intoxicated with power and passion that the welfare of his people was never his consideration. He believed himself to be above law and destiny. Ironically his statue and the surroundings proved just the opposite. He believed himself to be even greater than other kings — the Emperor of all.

3. Describe the picture of Ozymandias that emerges in your mind after reading the poem. How was his dream of perpetuating his memory reduced to dust?

Or

The poem Ozymandias illustrates the vanity of human greatness. Comment.

Ans : King Ozymandias considered himself to be the king of kings. He ruled over his empire with a firm hand. He fed his subjects and regarded them as inferior. He was arrogant, proud, and believed that no one will ever be able to equal his achievements.

3

He was so intoxicated with power that the welfare of his people was never his consideration. He believed himself to be above law and destiny.

But now his shattered statue, half buried in sand, the waste and ruins around prove that the time has levelled his fame and work. The ruins around the statue bear the testimony to the fact that nothing lasts forever. This is the true destiny of man. He is insignificant before the power of time. The poem illustrates the vanity of human greatness. It depicts, that one must command respect and not demand it. One must never misuse power and might. Glorious deeds should be committed to get respect from posterity. Real power lies in winning the hearts and not in, ruling the weak and needy.

4. After reading the poem, what is the lesson ingrained in it for the rest of mankind? Discuss.

Ans : Power, position, pelf should be used for the welfare of mankind. History may record one's territorial achievements but if one wins the hearts of people, then that is real victory. One must command respect and not demand it. Many times sages and saints are respected more than mighty kings. So one must never misuse power and might. Time is a great leveller. So glorious deeds should be committed to get respect from posterity. Shelley also demonstrates the fact that art and language long outlive the other legacies of power. Real power is in winning hearts and not in ruling the weak and the needy.

5. **Suppose by a miracle Ozymandias visits planet Earth and comes across his statue in that dilapidated state. He is dejected and awakens to the realisation of a life frittered away for materialistic and political gains. In a state of regret he pens down his thoughts in the form of a diary entry. Write the diary for him.**

Thursday
7 September 2017
8.30pm

Crossing over the desert, I was thunderstruck with great shock when I discovered that my statue was lying broken, without head and body, in an eroded state. Imagine my reaction. I had considered myself above all, I was the greatest, the mightiest, and I believed that the coming generations would worship or pay respect to my statue. The condition of my statue pained me. All my achievements, my confidence in my power was razed to the ground. There were sands and loneliness around. No one seemed to remember my greatness. May be I was wrong. I should have devoted my life to the welfare, looked after my people with compassion and care, maybe then the fate of my statue would have been different.

Ozymandias.

Assignment : Textual question

Bring out the irony in the poem.