

***My Last Duchess* by Robert Browning**

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Character Analysis:

1. What kind of personality does the Duke reveal in the poem?
2. How does the Duke's possessive nature contribute to the tragedy of the Duchess?
3. How does the Duke perceive the Duchess's behavior?
4. What does the Duke's description of the Duchess tell us about his views on women?
5. How does the Duke use art to control the memory of the Duchess?
6. What does the Duke's attitude towards the Duchess's death reveal about him?

Themes and Symbolism:

7. Discuss the theme of power and control in "My Last Duchess".
8. What is the significance of the bronze statue of Neptune in the poem?
9. How does the theme of jealousy manifest in "My Last Duchess"?
10. Explore the symbolism of the Duchess's portrait in the poem.
11. How does the poem reflect the theme of dominance in relationships?
12. What does the painting symbolize about the Duke's control over the Duchess?

Literary Devices and Techniques:

13. How does Browning use dramatic monologue to reveal the Duke's character?
14. Analyze the use of irony in "My Last Duchess".
15. Discuss the use of imagery in the poem.
16. How does the poem's structure enhance the Duke's control over the narrative?
17. What role does the silent listener play in the poem?
18. How does Browning use enjambment to emphasize the Duke's thought process?

Critical Analysis:

19. How does the Duke's treatment of the Duchess reflect his views on social status and wealth?
20. Why is "My Last Duchess" considered a critique of patriarchal society?
21. Discuss how Browning portrays power dynamics between men and women in "My Last Duchess".
22. What does the poem suggest about the Duke's sense of entitlement?
23. How does "My Last Duchess" comment on the objectification of women?

24. Analyze the Duke's sense of superiority and how it affects his relationship with the Duchess.

Dramatic Monologue:

25. What makes "My Last Duchess" a powerful example of a dramatic monologue?

26. How does the dramatic monologue form allow the Duke to reveal his true nature?

27. How does the poem's monologue format contribute to the tension between the Duke and the Duchess?

28. How does Browning use the one-sided conversation in "My Last Duchess" to build suspense?

29. Discuss the effect of the silent listener on the reader's understanding of the Duke.

30. How does the poem explore the psychological complexity of the Duke's character through monologue?

Comparative Questions:

31. Compare and contrast the Duke's attitude towards the Duchess and the bronze statue of Neptune.

32. How does the Duke's attitude toward art reflect his relationships with people?

33. Compare the Duke's possessiveness in "My Last Duchess" with another literary character who exhibits similar traits.

34. How does "My Last Duchess" compare to other poems by Browning in terms of exploring dark human psychology?

General and Miscellaneous:

35. How does Browning present the Duchess in "My Last Duchess"?

36. What does the Duke's language and tone reveal about his feelings towards the Duchess?

37. Why does the Duke choose to discuss his late wife in such detail with the visitor?

38. How does the Duke's wealth and social status influence his treatment of the Duchess?

39. What is the significance of the Duke's controlling behavior in the poem?

40. How does "My Last Duchess" reflect the social attitudes of the Victorian era?

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