

	Ozymandias – Percy Shelley	My Last Duchess – Robert Browning	Tissue – Imtiaz Dharker	London – William Blake	Checking Out Me History – John Agard
Context	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The narrator meets a traveller who tells him about a decayed stature that he saw in a desert. Shelley disliked the idea of a monarchy and the oppression of ordinary people. The poem is ironic and one big metaphor: Human power is only temporary. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Duke is showing a visitor around his art collection and proudly points out a portrait of his last wife, now dead. He reveals that he was annoyed by her over-friendly behaviour. The visitor has come to arrange the Duke’s next marriage, and the Duke’s story is a subtle warning about how he expects his next wife to behave. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Two different meanings of ‘Tissue’ are explored: the various pieces of paper that control our lives; and the tissue of a human body. The poet explores the paradox that although paper is fragile, temporary and ultimately not important, we allow it to control our lives. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The narrator is describing a walk around London and how he is saddened by the sights and sounds of poverty. The poem tries to convince the reader that the people in power (landowners, Church, Government) are to blame for this inequality. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Represents the voice of a man from the Caribbean colony of British Guiana, who was frustrated by the Eurocentric history curriculum that he was taught at school – which paid little attention to black history. Black history is in italics to emphasise its separateness and to stress its importance.
Key quotes	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> ‘a shattered visage’ ‘king of kings, look on my works ye Mighty and despair’ ‘boundless and bare the lone and level sands stretch far away.’ 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> ‘She had a heart. . . Too soon made glad, too easily impressed.’ ‘I gave commands, then all smiles stopped together.’ ‘There she stands, as if alive.’ 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> ‘Smoothed and stroked’ ‘Never meant to last’ ‘how easily they fall away on a sigh’ ‘turned into your skin’ 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> ‘marks of weakness, marks of woe.’ ‘mind-forged manacles’ ‘every black’ning church appals’ 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> ‘Blind me to me own identity.’ ‘Dem tell me bout de dish ran away with de spoon / But dem never tell me bout Nanny de Maroon’ ‘Now I checking out me own history / I carving out my identity.’
Vocabulary	<p>Irony – what is said is the opposite of what is meant.</p> <p>Hubris – excessive pride or self-confidence.</p> <p>Sonnet – a fourteen line poem, written in iambic pentameter traditionally associated with love and romance.</p>	<p>Jealousy – envy.</p> <p>Euphemism – what is said means something else.</p> <p>Dramatic Monologue – a poem in the form of a speech by a narrator who reveals aspects of their character.</p>	<p>Paradox – a seemingly contradictory statement.</p> <p>Fragile – weak, easily broken.</p> <p>Extended metaphor – a metaphor that continues over the course of a text.</p>	<p>Disgust – a feeling of revulsion or strong dislike.</p> <p>Oppression – cruel and unfair treatment over a long period.</p> <p>Industrial Revolution – 1760 to 1840. A period of great change in Britain where technology, work and cities changed greatly.</p>	<p>Dialect – a form of language that belongs to a specific region or group of people.</p> <p>Lyrical – expressing emotion in an imaginative and beautiful way.</p> <p>Identity – who or what you are.</p>