**EXEMPLAR**

**LOG ENTRY ONE;**

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| **Title: Ozymandias**  **Author / Director: Percy Bysshe Shelley**  **Date:** |

**Brief Synopsis:**  Give a brief summary of the text you have read.

The poem describes an encounter a poet has with a man who has travelled in the desert and come across the remains of a monument to the ruler RamsesII. There is little left of the monument, just two legs of stone half sunk into the sand and a head buried in the sand with only the face showing. The expression on the face is of an arrogant and powerful ruler, consumed by his own importance. He has a wrinkled lip, sneer and frown which produce an idea of the cold command he used to rule with. The traveller moves onto to suggest that the sculptor who was employed to produce the statue must have known the ruler well. On the pedestal of the statue the words “ My name is Ozymandias King of Kings, look on my works ye mighty and despair”, appear, presumably chosen by the King to reveal how all powerful he was and how much better he was than others who considered themselves mighty.

Around the statue nothing but sand exists for miles and miles showing that the once great civilisation he ruled over is dead and buried, meaningless and unimportant. His boast and arrogance was shown to be futile in terms of the immutable forces of nature and time.

**Ideas / Themes:**  Identify the main ideas and themes in the text, provide specific details from the text to support these, comment on the effect created, why they were used, and give your response as to their purpose.

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| **WHAT** | **HOW** | | **WHY** |
| **Idea / Theme** | **Evidence** | **Effect of** | **Purpose** |
| 1. Political systems based on tyrannical forms and absolute power from rulers engenders a feeling of arrogant pride which will ultimately be destroyed in time.  2. The arts and artists are more powerful than politics, because they will endure and they can expose the true nature of things and people.  3. Man is insubstantial when compared with time and nature. | My name is Ozymandias, King of Kings. Look on my works ye mighty and despair”  “ round the decay of that colossal wreck , boundless and bare the level sands stretch far away “  “ Its sculptor well those passions read Which yet survive”  “ whose frown, and wrinkled lip and sneer of cold command”  “ the hand that mocked them”  “ half sunk, a shattered visage lies”  “Round the decay…..stretch far away” | To show how highly the ruler regards himself, as being above all others.  Nothing remains as evidence of the supposedly ‘mighty’ rule.  The artist was able to create something which has withstood the ravages of time while the subject has long since disappeared.  The artist was well aware of the actual characteristics of the ruler, he was arrogant, used to absolute and uncaring control.  The artist could both imitate the actual features and also make fun of them.  Time and the desert have almost erased the monument and memory of Ramses II. | So we can appreciate the transience of political systems that are perceived by those in charge as being all powerful and everlasting.  The arrogance of rulers who perceive themselves as being all powerful is foolish and time will erase their presence as if it had never been.  Art and artists and their creative process is long lasting and able to expose the world and people most effectively.  The arts and artists can create realistic depictions and so uncover the truths we need to be aware of.  There is an enormous power in the creative process.  Those edifices that men create to attest to their greatness are nothing in the great scheme of things. |

**Audience and Purpose:**

Comment on the author’s purpose in the text and the intended audience. Provide evidence for your comments.

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| Audience and Purpose | Evidence |
| Those men in power over others who regard themselves arrogantly as indestructible and all powerful. To show it is transient.  Artists to remind them of the power they hold for understanding.  All men to remind them of their smallness and insignificance in the face of time. The realistic appreciation that death is inevitable. | The poem outlines the result of time on the monument. It is now destroyed, nothing but a ‘wreck’ and the mighty comment on the pedestal is laughable because nothing remains of either the ruler or the civilisation he created.  The sculptor’s work remains to reveal what the ruler was like and we can appreciate the sort of tyrant he was from the statue. There is a responsibility for artists to realise this and the power they hold.  The great face, presence and power of the ruler has been almost completely obliterated by the desert and time. Ultimately it is dust to dust. |

**Structure:** Comment on the structure used by the author / director to communicate ideas and provide evidence and comment on the effect. Eg. part text, whole text, narrative sequence, beginnings and endings, turning points, denouement.

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| **WHAT** | **HOW** | | **WHY** |
| **Structural feature** | **Evidence** | **Effect** | **Purpose** |
| Petrarchan Sonnet  A fourteen line poem which in the octave proposes a concern or idea and in the following sestet engages with or resolves. | The octet outlines the description of the statue and the state of disrepair it is in. It describes the accuracy of the sculptor’s work with its clear understanding of the nature of the ruler he is depicting. The setting in the middle of a desert indicates the sense of emptiness and decay.  The sestet describes the arrogant claim the ruler made that he would be immortal and always known as all powerful, and the result is ironic because the decaying monument lies near obliterated by the desert sands, dealt a blow by time. | Allows Shelley to set up the situation and what has been found ( the statue), to describe its state of decay and then the skill and power of the artist in capturing the essence of the ruler. Makes us question just who it was, what happened to him and why there is hardly anything left.  Takes us further into a contemplation of the arrogance of rulers and their lack of understanding that they are mortal, will not be around for always and will not be remembered. | To expose the transience of life and standing. To make us contemplate the arrogance of rulers who consider themselves invincible and all powerful.  Nothing lasts, no one remains all powerful. Perhaps only artists have any real power? |

**Language Features:** Identify particular language features used by the author / director. Provide examples and comment on the effects of these and their purpose. Language features include eg: visual features and verbal features.

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| **WHAT** | **HOW** | | **WHY** |
| **Language Technique** | **Example** | **Effect** | **Purpose** |
| 1. Metaphor  2. Alliteration  3. Synecdoche  4. Diction, word choice  5. Contrast | “ two vast and trunkless legs of stone”  “ boundless and bare…lone and level”  “The hand that mocked them”  “ shattered…wreck…decay…  sneer…wrinkled”  “ which yet survive, stamped on these lifeless things” | Compares the statue built as a monument to power and might to the inevitable truth that such edifices cannot last.  Extends the idea of the extent of the desolation the statue stands in. It is truly abandoned and alone, unnoticed, not revered and unappreciated.  Refers to the sculptor as a whole, his artistic ability.  All have negative connotations, which help the general atmosphere of desolation.  Shows the way the artist’s work has survived while the man has not. | To show the transience of life in the great scheme of things.  To amplify the notion above.  Allows us to contemplate the artistic creative process rather than just the one man’s efforts.  Helps us see the inevitability of the situation.  Help us appreciate the power of art and creativity. |