Vikram’s English Academy (ICSE)

**Assignment: Ozymandias ( Answer Key)**

Answer the following :

1. Whom did the narrator meet? Where had the person come from?

Ans: The narrator met a traveller who had come from an antique land (or Egypt).

1. What had the traveller seen?

Ans: The traveller had seen two vast and trunkless legs of a statue in the desert. He also saw the face of the statue lying nearby, half sunk in the sand.

1. What was the condition of the statue?

Ans: The statue was broken. The two vast legs where standing on a pedestal but the trunk ( torso)was missing. The face, which was shattered, was half buried in the stand.

1. What were the expressions on the face of the statue?

Ans: There was a frown and a sneer of cold command on the face of the statue. The lips were wrinkled.

1. What do the expressions on the face of the statue tell about the sculptor? What do they tell us about the person to whom they belonged?

Ans: The expressions on the face of the statue tell us that the sculptor had read the emotions of the person very well. The expressions also tell us that the person to whom they belonged was a proud and arrogant human being.

1. What was written on the pedestal on which the statue stood?

Ans: The following words were written on the pedestal on which the statue stood - “ My name is Ozymandias, king of kings: Look on my works, ye Mighty and despair !”

1. Explain : Look on my works , ye Mighty , and despair

Ans : These lines , written on the pedestal of the statue clearly indicate that the king Ozymandias was a proud king. He seems to be telling the other kings that what he had created was the best and that they should look at his works and feel hopeless as they can never do what he had done.

1. Who was Ozymandias?

Ans: Ozymandias was the Greek name for an ancient Egyptian pharaoh Ramses II who ruled Egypt between 1279 – 1213 BC.( He was an ancient Egyptian king)

1. What do the words on the pedestal tell about the character of Ozymandias?

Ans: The words on the pedestal tell us that Ozymandias was very proud of himself. He looked down upon the others as he thought he was the best. He also believed that no other king can match his works and therefore they should despair.

1. What can be seen beside the statue?

Ans: Only a vast stretch of sand can be seen beside the statue.

1. How have the sands been described?

Ans: The sands are boundless, bare, lonely and level.

1. What does the ‘colossal wreck’ refer to? Why is it called so?

Ans: The ‘colossal wreck’ refers to the remains of the statue that was found in the midst of the desert. The trunkless legs and the visage lying next to it were clearly indicating that it had been a huge statue which is now a shattered wreck. That is why the terms ‘colossal wreck’ have been used.

1. What type of a sonnet is this? The poem is divided into two parts. Explain the ideas explained in each part of the poem?

Ans: This is a Petrarchan or Italian sonnet which is divided into two parts. The first part comprising of eight lines, known as an octave, describes the glory of the king Ozymandias. The second part comprising of six lines, known as a sestet, tells us about the futility of pride and power as it explains that time destroys the greatest of people.

1. What is the poet conveying through this poem?

Ans: The poet conveys the message that man is immortal however powerful he may be. All powerful people and their creations come to an end and therefore they must not boast or feel proud about it.