

Literary Heritage

Learning Outcomes

ALL: Develop **understanding** of the poem, its context and its narrative

MOST: **Analyse** Browning's use of language and its effects

SOME: **Evaluate** how the poem's theme connects with Macbeth

Browning

In pairs, discuss what these words already tell you about the characters in the poem:

My

Least

Richness

Write down your findings.

Browning: 'My Last Duchess'

1. On your copy of the poem, identify where it says:

- a) He's talking about a painting;
- b) Strangers always want to ask why she's smiling like that;
- c) She was easily made happy;
- d) She was interested in the appearance of things;
- e) She did not appreciate her husband's title or status;
- f) He chose not to let her know that her behaviour affected him;
- g) He gave orders to have her killed;
- h) He is planning to marry again;
- i) He is a collector of fine things.

2. What sort of things pleased her?

3. How does the narrator view his "last Duchess"?

4. How does the fact that it is written in first person affect the information the narrator gives about his wife?