

Martin Rodriguez

Dr. Griffin

Tech Prep 12

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"My Last Duchess"

By: Robert Browning

That's my last duchess painted on the wall,-A

That's my last wifes painting on the wall.

Looking as if she were alive. I call-A

It's a realistic painting of her.

That piece a wonder, now: Frà Pandolf's hands-B

The narrator thinks it is beautiful.

Worked busily a day, and there she stands.-B

Painter took a lot of time to paint it.

Will't please you sit and look at her? I said-C

The narrator asks for the listener or the reader to look at the painting.

"Frà Pandolf" by design, for never read-C

Fra Pandolf intended the painting to be a certain way.

Strangers like you that pictured countenance,-D

People who didn't know he, would not know the real duchess.

Comment [63931]: Painters name

Comment [63932]: Facial expression.

The depth and passion of its **earnest** glance,-D

Comment [63933]: A serious and intent mental state.

The painting is more than the reality of her passion and depth.

But to myself they turned (since none puts by-E

People who didn't know her looked to me to find about her.

The curtain I have drawn for you, but I-F

I will reveal the truth about the duchess.

And seemed as they would ask me, if they **durst**,-G

Comment [63934]: Archaic & dialect past or dare.

The strangers would ask.

How such a glance came there; so, not the first-G

How did she get that look?

Are you to turn and ask thus. Sir, 'twas not-H

You turn around and ask me why not

Her husband's presence only, called that spot-H

Her husband is the one who gave her that look.

Of joy into the Duchess' cheek: perhaps-I

Joy of his wife.

Fra Pandolf chanced to say "Her **mantle** laps-I

Comment [63935]: A loose sleeveless garment worn over other clothes.

Fra Pandolf to a chance to say his wife is covered.

"Over my lady's wrist too much," or "Paint-J

His wife is cover by a clothe to much where you can't see her wrist

"Must never hope to reproduce the faint-J

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"Half-flush that dies along her throat": such stuff-K

Seems to be white with makeup by her throat.

Was courtesy, she thought, and cause enough-K

Thought it was nice but cause trouble.

For calling up that spot of joy. She had-L

For having joy to a certain point

A heart—how shall I say?—too soon made glad,-L

Her heart made her feel soon to happy.

Too easily impressed; she liked whate'er-M

She liked anything and was easy to impress

She looked on, and her looks went everywhere.-M

She looked around and her looks were nowhere to be seen

Sir, 'twas all one! My favor at her breast,-N

The dropping of the daylight in the West,-N

The sun setting

The bough of cherries some officious fool-O

Broke in the orchard for her, the white mule-O

She rode with round the terrace—all and each-p

Would draw from her alike the approving speech,-P

Or blush, at least. She thanked men—good! but thanked-Q

Turned red when thanking men

Somehow—I know not how—as if she ranked-Q

Don't know if she qualified

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My gift of a nine-hundred-years-old name-R

My name from years ago

With anybody's gift. Who'd stoop to blame-R

With so many gift who is to blame

This sort of trifling? Even had you skill-S

This type of back stabbing also have skills

In speech—which I have not—to make your will-S

In words I have not spoken your will

Quite clear to such an one, and say, "Just this-T

When I spoke I made it clear for this

"Or that in you disgusts me; here you miss,-T

You disgust me but still miss me.

"Or there exceed the mark"—and if she let-U

Herself be lessoned so, nor plainly set-U

She will learn not the easy way

Her wits to yours, forsooth, and make excuse,V

—E'en then would be some stooping; and I choose-V

Never to stoop. Oh sir, she smiled, no doubt,-W

Whene'er I passed her; but who passed without-X

Much the same smile? This grew; I gave commands;-B

Then all smiles stopped together. There she stands-B

As if alive. Will't please you rise? We'll meet-Y

The company below, then. I repeat,-Y

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Comment [63936]: Often used to imply contempt or doubt.

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The Count your master's known munificence-E

Comment [63937]: Characterized by great liberality or generosity.

Is ample warrant that no just pretense-E

Of mine for dowry will be disallowed;-Z

Comment [63938]: a gift of money or property by a man to or for his bride.

Though his fair daughter's self, as I avowed-Z

At starting, is my object. Nay we'll go-Z

Together down, sir. Notice Neptune, though,-Z

Taming a sea-horse, thought a rarity,-G

Comment [63939]: The quality, state, or fact of being rare.

Which Claus of Innsbruck cast in bronze for me!-Y