

ALFRED TENNYSON

TEST YOURSELF

Organise your knowledge about the life and work of Alfred, Lord Tennyson. under the following headings.

The most important event in Tennyson's life

His masterpieces

His most important themes

The poet's task

ULYSSES

CONTENTS

1. Read lines 1-32 and answer the following questions.

1. Who opens the monologue?
2. Where is he?
3. At what point in his career is he?
4. What is his state of mind?
5. What does he imply when he says "I am a part of all that I have met" (line 18)?
6. What does the speaker long for when he says. "How dull it is to pause. ... As though to breathe were life!" (lines 22-24)?

2. lines 33-43 represent a pause in the narration. What is the speaker's attitude towards his son Telemachus? What is the contrast between them?

3. Read the last stanzas of the poem and note down:

1. what the speaker is aware of;
2. what he has in common with his men;
3. what the last line suggests to you.

STRUCTURE AND STYLE

4. Recognise the characteristics of the dramatic monologue in this poem.
5. What is the general tone of the monologue?
6. State the themes of the poem.
7. Decide who Ulysses stands for.