

# Reading Skill

## UNDERSTAND HISTORICAL CONTEXT

The historical context of a literary work refers to the social conditions that inspired or influenced its creation. Romanticism developed in part as a reaction to the French Revolution, the rise and fall of Napoleon, the industrialization of the economy, and the poverty and repression of workers.

**Directions:** As you read Shelley’s poems, consider what they tell you about his feelings about Europe at the time he was writing. Record lines from the poems in the chart. Then describe what each line says about Shelley’s feelings about conditions in Europe and his native land. An example has been done for you.

Poem	Lines	What Shelley Is Saying About Social Conditions
“Ozymandias”	“Nothing beside remains.”	Even the <i>greatest</i> of emperors will fall.