

Reading Skill

MAKE INFERENCES ABOUT A CHARACTER

When you **make inferences**, you identify details that are implied but not stated directly. When you read Browning’s dramatic monologues, it is important to make inferences about the speakers. In each poem, a speaker presents a strong view of his or her own personality. However, his or her words and actions often present another view. Look for clues that help you analyze both the speaker’s self-image and his or her true nature.

Directions: Complete the diagrams to make inferences about each speaker. Describe how the speaker sees himself or herself. Then note his or her true nature. In the overlapping section, record self-perceptions of the speaker that are actually true.

Self-Image

“My Last Duchess”

True Nature

Self-Image

“Porphyria’s Lover”

True Nature
