

Read Robert Browning's "My Last Duchess" from lines 5–21 (from "I said / 'Frà Pandolf' by design, for never read" to "For calling up that spot of joy").

1. To whom does the Duke refer in line 6?
2. What does *by design* mean in this context?
3. Why does the Duke claim in lines 6–12 that he mentions Frà Pandolf "by design"?
4. For what other reasons might the Duke mention Frà Pandolf twice in the first six lines of the poem?
5. In line 11, what do the words "if they durst" suggest about the Duke's view of himself?
6. What does the Duke imply when he uses the word *only* in line 14?
7. What does the phrase "that spot of joy" suggest about the Duchess? What does the Duke imply in lines 15–21 might have caused such an expression?

8. What does the Duke mean by the phrase “such stuff” in line 19? What does the Duke’s use of the phrase “such stuff” suggest about his attitude towards Frà Pandolf?
  
9. How did the Duchess respond to “such stuff” (line 19)?
  
10. What does the Duke imply when he remarks that “such stuff / Was courtesy she thought, and cause enough / For calling up that spot of joy” (lines 19–21)?