

Read Robert Browning's "My Last Duchess" from lines 43-56 (from "Oh, sir, she smiled, no doubt, / Whene'er I passed her" to "Which Claus of Innsbruck cast in bronze for me!").

1. What does the rhetorical question in lines 44–45 suggest about the Duke?
2. To what does the phrase "This grew" (line 45) refer?
3. What might the Duke mean when he states, "I gave commands; / Then all smiles stopped together" in lines 45–46?
4. How does the repetition of the phrase "as if alive" in lines 2 and 47 affect the meaning of the poem?
5. What action happens in lines 47–48, after the Duke finishes talking about the Duchess and her picture?
6. What are the Duke and the listener discussing in lines 49–53?
7. What is the connection between the Count's "known munificence" and a "dowry" in lines 49–51 ("The Count your master's known munificence" to "no just pretence / Of mine for dowry will be disallowed")?

