**“Ozymandias” by Percy Bysshe Shelley**

I met a traveler from an antique land

Who said: Two vast and trunkless legs of stone

Stand in the desert…Near them, on the sand,

Half sunk, a shattered visage lies, whose frown,

And wrinkled lip, and sneer of cold command,

Tell that its sculptor well those passions read

Which yet survive, stamped on these lifeless things,

The hand that mocked them, and the heart that fed;

And on the pedestal these words appear:

“My name is Ozymandias, king of kings;

Look on my works, ye Mighty, and despair!”

Nothing beside remains. Round the decay

Of that colossal wreck, boundless and bare

The lone and level sands stretch far away.

**Writing Practice: Choose one of the following prompts and respond fully to it.**

1. Write a paragraph that describes a time when you felt a sense of despair. Do not use the word “despair” in your paragraph, but suggest the feeling by using the image of a concrete (inanimate – not necessarily *literally* made from concrete) object to symbolize it.
2. Write a story or narrative poem in which a person from the future discovers a remnant of our own civilization (perhaps a monument, a building, a diary, etc.) and ponders about what America in the twenty-first century must have been like. In your story or narrative poem, experiment with Shelley’s technique of using multiple narrators.
3. Choose a book or short story you have read in which the author uses more than one narrator to tell the story. How does the use of two or more different perspectives affect the meaning of the work as a whole?