Ulysses

Ulysses is a dramatic monologue written by Alfred Lord Tennyson, he was one of the most important writers of dramatic monologue during the Victorian Age. The first part is set in Ithaca. Ulysses just came back from his feat and he talks about a place and people that he does not recognize anymore. He considers the island in which he lives such as a corrupted place, base on unequal laws. In the second section changes the subject, indeed Ulysses speaks about himself. He want to travel around the world because he wants to live an intense life “I will drink life to the less”. In the third scenes he introduces his son: Telemachus . Tennyson inserts this character who embodies the traditional Victorian man. He is in contrast with his father, who instead follows heart. Telemachus receives the custody of the kingdom from his father. In this sequence also are showed Telemachus' qualities and the virtues of the king, that are: prudence, tenderness, decent. This virtues are emphasized by the alliteration of the sound “s” and the lexical choice.

In the last stanzas refers to the mariners that travelled and worked with him for many years. He encourages them to make use of their old age because “T is not too late to seek a newer world”. Ulysses glorifies mariners’ hard work and their faith to their king that they followed on the journey.

In conclusion the intelligent reader understands that Ulysses accepts his destiny, but the same he wants to live an intense life. In this dramatic monologue Tennyson wants to put in evidence the historical distance between his period and the period in which Ulysses’s actions happened, through a specific and different language.