

## Unit 4.2: Protest

# Worksheet A

## Activity 2.8 Approaches to literature: Percy Bysshe Shelley's 'A Song: "Men of England"'

In three groups, answer the questions below, about different ways to approach Shelley's 'A Song: "Men of England"':

## Group 1 Reader response approach

### Group 2 Formalism approach

### Group 3 Marxist approach

### Group 1 – Reader response

- 1 How does this poem make you feel?
- 2 What personal associations do you have with the language of the poem? Select specific words and phrases to support your claims.



### Group 3 – Marxist approach

- 1 What social classes are depicted? Why? What are the power struggles between characters and classes, especially with regard to the rise of the proletariat against the ruling class?
- 2 What is the significance of this poem as an impetus for social change or a manifestation of progressive ideas?
- 3 Research the time period when this was written and the author's political views. How does that impact your reading of the poem?

**Conclusion:** How is each group's presentation different in nature? Is any single method or approach more effective than the other in determining meaning? Why?