

# YR 9 - VICTORIAN (Term 1 )

## 1837-1901

### Possible types of texts

### The descriptive 'rules'

### Grammar

*In their day, the Victorians were on the cutting edge. All the gadgets we're always improving on? The Victorians saw them being invented—things like railways, photography, electricity, & the telegraph. Okay, so the mobile phone pretty much blows the telegraph out of the water, but it was still a huge improvement on hand-delivering letters.*

#### Letter

- ☐ the use of addresses & date
- ☐ a formal mode of address e.g. Dear Sir/Madam or a named recipient
- ☐ effectively/fluently sequenced paragraphs
- ☐ an appropriate mode of signing off: Yours sincerely/faithfully.

#### Article

- ☐ Broadsheet = formal/Local or tabloid = informal
- ☐ a clear/apt/original title
- ☐ a strapline & subheadings
- ☐ an introductory (overview) paragraph
- ☐ effectively/fluently sequenced paragraphs.

#### Leaflet

- ☐ a clear/apt/original title
- ☐ organisational devices such as inventive subheadings or boxes
- ☐ bullet points
- ☐ effectively/fluently sequenced paragraphs.

#### Speech

- ☐ a clear address to an audience
- ☐ effective/fluently linked sections to indicate sequence
- ☐ rhetorical indicators that an audience is being addressed
- ☐ a clear sign off e.g. 'Thank you for listening'.

#### Essay

- ☐ an effective introduction & convincing conclusion
- ☐ effectively/fluently linked paragraphs to sequence a range of ideas.

### Reading skills

#### How do you know a writer is at work? How does a writer present his/her perspective?

They try to elicit (get) a particular response from the reader through their use of language/structure/form. It's often easiest to consider what emotion the writer is feeling to be able to explain perspective. E.g. When Conan-Doyle pronounces that London is a "great cesspool" he conveys both disgust & admiration for the city with his oxymoron.

#### How do you express your understanding of the writers' intentions & the readers' response?

Conan-Doyle intends to amuse his readers in portraying Sherlock Holmes as confused by women in general. Sherlock's overly formal & scientific register in stating "the fair sex is your department" is intended to raise a wry smile from the reader.

No names for people

At least 5 zoom-ins

No person described for more than a paragraph

Minimum 5 senses

1-3 sentences of direct speech

Maximum 1 exclamation mark

3<sup>rd</sup> person

No thoughts

Present or past tense (not both)

Move the camera – like a film

### Reading tasks

A fiction analysis & a non-fiction analysis

### Writing tasks

A descriptive piece & a persuasive article

### Writing skills

#### Why do 'text types' have rules?

Conventions or rules make it easier for the reader as the writing is in a format they expect & feel comfortable with.

#### What are the advantages of breaking the rules?

It often shows that you want the reader to really think differently about your content.

**Subject** – person or thing that does the action in a sentence

**Direct object** – person/thing that has the action done to them. Kim loves chocolate

**Indirect object** – the person receiving the direct object. He gave the pen to Derek

**Primary auxiliary verbs** – to be/to have/to do – when used to help or change tense of another verb: I am running/ you were dancing

**Modal verb** – possibility/ doubt/obligation 'can/could/may/might/must/ shall/should/will/would.

**Present participles** – the base of the verb 'to be' + 'ing' to make it continuous e.g. I am walking

**Past participles** - indicates past or completed action or time. It is often called the 'ed' form. e.g. I walked

### Stretch yourself

Read 'War of the Worlds' or anything by HG Wells. Also see if you can find the link between King Arthur & the Victorians. BOUNCE BACK – MEDIEVAL.

### Looking forward to next term....

Some rules were totally meant to be broken—not waiting three days before calling someone back after an awesome first date, eating dessert last..... & if you were a Modernist, well, *all* rules were meant to be broken. The Modernists definitely lived by Bender's "being bad feels pretty good" ethos.

#### Why did the serialisation of novels occur?

- ☐ Money – magazines liked to drip feed cliff hangers to increase & sustain circulation
- ☐ Writers often paid by the word – hence Dickens LOVES his adjectives

#### What was Dickens' social commentary centred on?

- ☐ Dickens' father was imprisoned in a Debtors' Prison & at 12 Dickens worked in a shoe-blackening factory.
- ☐ He believed in the ethical & political potential of literature & he treated his fiction as a way to start debates about moral & social reform.
- ☐ Dickens succeeded in making Victorian public opinion more aware of the conditions of the poor.

#### How do we see the Victorian moral code in literature?

- ☐ Victorian moral values: sexual proprietary/hard work/honesty/thrift/sense of duty & responsibility towards the less well off. The age saw a whole range of guidebooks for manners, household management, & self-improvement.
- ☐ Victorians didn't let their kids off the hook, either. What Victorian schoolchild *didn't* recite "How doth the little busy Bee / Improve each shining Hour?" (It's no wonder Lewis Carroll would parody (take the mick out of) it in *Alice in Wonderland* with "How doth the little crocodile / Improve his shining tail.")

#### Why was Sherlock Holmes such an iconic figure?

- ☐ The growth of detective fiction - the establishment of criminal investigation departments - such as the London CID (1878) – supported this.
- ☐ The market for cheap fiction (The Education Act created a young poor readership)
- ☐ Conan Doyle introduced 'the idiot friend', 'the arch criminal' & forensic science (medical advances in this century supported this.)

#### How did the ragged schools & the Education Act affect literacy rates?

- ☐ Started by church run by volunteers.
- ☐ In 1844 the Ragged School Union was formed & there were just 16 schools connected with it but by 1861 there were 176 schools in the union.
- ☐ They improved literacy for neglected children & offered food & bedding at times.
- ☐ Seen to improve morality & prevent criminality – a key Victorian concern.

#### Who was Jack the Ripper?

- ☐ Between August & November 1888, the Whitechapel area of London was the scene of five brutal murders. The killer was dubbed 'Jack the Ripper'.
- ☐ All the women murdered were prostitutes, & all except for one were horribly mutilated.
- ☐ Many connected he novel by Stevenson 'Jekyll and Hyde' with the killer.

#### Why did the Victorian press sensationalise events?

- ☐ Curiosity which Victorians (& modern society) continue to show is fired up by scandal.
- ☐ It is/was believed that "in almost every one of the well-ordered houses of their neighbours there [is] a skeleton shut up in some cupboard" (Griffin; 67).
- ☐ This feeling encourages the reader of sensation texts to enjoy the weaknesses of others & that they might be found out if someone looks hard enough.