

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 & could use 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.

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

3rd person

No thoughts

Present or past tense (not both)

Move the camera – like a film

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

Passive voice – A clause or sentence in which the subject undergoes the action of the verb (e.g. *they were killed* instead of *he killed them*).

Active voice – A clause or sentence in which the subject does the action of the verb (e.g. *he killed them* instead of *they were killed*.)

Recap:
Year 7 and 8 grammar

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.

Themes in Sherlock Holmes:

Cunning and cleverness

Justice and judgement

Women and femininity

Class and society

Respect and reputation

Admiration

Sherlock Holmes

A Scandal in Bohemia:

The King of Bohemia engages Holmes to recover an indiscreet photograph showing him with the renowned beauty, adventuress and opera singer Irene Adler—the revelation of which would derail his marriage to a daughter of the King of Scandinavia.

The Red-Headed League:

Jabez Wilson, a pawnbroker, consults Holmes about a job, gained only because of his red hair, which took him away from his shop for long periods each day; the job is to simply copy the Encyclopaedia Britannica. After eight weeks, he was suddenly informed that the job ended.

The Five Orange Pips:

John Openshaw tells Holmes that in 1883 his uncle died two months after receiving a letter inscribed "K.K.K." with five orange pips enclosed, and that in 1885 his father died soon after receiving a similar letter; now Openshaw himself has received such a letter.

The Man with the Twisted Lip:

Neville St. Clair, a respectable businessman, has disappeared and his wife claims she saw him at the upper window of an opium den.

The Speckled Band:

Helen Stoner worries her stepfather may be trying to kill her after he conspires to move her to the bedroom where her sister had died two years earlier, shortly before her wedding. Stoner is herself now engaged, and Holmes learns that her stepfather's annuity (from the estate of his wife—Stoner's mother) would be greatly reduced if either sister married.

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 importance of literature & he treated his fiction as a way to start debates about moral & social reform.
- ☐ Dickens succeeded in making the Victorian public more aware of the conditions of the poor.

How do we see the Victorian moral code in literature?

- ☐ Victorian moral values: sexual propriety/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?"

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?

- ☐ Ragged Schools were started by the church and 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.
- ☐ They were 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 the novel 'Jekyll and Hyde' by Stevenson 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 sensationalised texts to enjoy the weaknesses of others & that they might be found out if someone looks hard enough.