

# YR 9 - VICTORIAN (Term 1 )

## 1837-1901

*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.*

### 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.

### The Victorian Workhouse:

- ❑ an institution that was intended to provide work and shelter for poverty stricken people who had no means to support themselves. With the advent of the Poor Law system, Victorian workhouses, designed to deal with the issue of pauperism, in fact became prison systems detaining the most vulnerable in society.
- ❑ The harsh system of the workhouse became synonymous with the Victorian era, an institution which became known for its terrible conditions, forced child labour, long hours, malnutrition, beatings and neglect. It would become a blight on the social conscience of a generation leading to opposition from the likes of the Charles Dickens.

### 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 - 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?

- ❑ In order to sell more papers (just like today).
- ❑ Editors believed that sensationalist stories appealed to readers.
- ❑ Advertising became important – influencing the need to sell more papers .
- ❑ Victorian society was engrossed by and fanatically obsessed with the strange and unusual.

## Possible types of texts

### 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.

## Top Tips for Creative Writing

At least 5 zoom-ins

Keep it simple: maximum 3 characters; tell a 'small' story – make the ordinary extraordinary

Describe all 5 senses

Maximum 1 exclamation mark

Write in 3<sup>rd</sup> person

Show, don't tell

Maximum 3 sentences of direct speech

Don't 'chat' to the reader

50% description with zooms

## 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.

## Grammar

**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

## Keystone Vocabulary

- Appearance/reality
- Morality
- Social injustice
- Industrial revolution
- Sensationalism
- Macabre

## 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.