

# Victorian Age Literature



## Basic characteristics

In the 19th century, a novel was the most popular type of English literature. [...] The Victorian novels described the **complications in life** that one has to go through which involved hard work, determination, etc.

The novels would eventually have a happy ending with the culprits being punished. However, the novels contained a moral lesson.

## Popular authors

William Thackeray was a novelist who focused on the issues of middle-class. Other famous novelists include the Brontë sisters, Haworth, George Eliot, a name adopted by Mary Ann Evans.

Other kinds of literature include children's literature, poetry, drama, etc. At times, Victorians are given the credit for inventing childhood in the sense that they attempted to stop child labor and provide mandatory education for children. With education, more and more children were able to read and this inspired writers like Charles Dickens or Lewis Carroll.

## Literature types

Though scientific books were not considered to be a part of literature, Charles Darwin's *On the Origin of Species* was popular. The *Oxford English Dictionary* which began in the Victorian era became the most significant historical dictionary of the English language.

The *Illustrated London News* which began in 1842 was the world's first weekly newspaper.

Another type of literature was the old Gothic stories. These were based on fantastic fiction. It was during this time that characters like Sherlock Holmes, Barry Lee, Sexton Blake, Phileas Fogg and others were originated. Also, fictional characters like Dracula, Edward Hyde, The Invisible Man and others became popular.

<http://web.archive.org/web/20200708051029/http://victorian-era.org/victorian-age-literature.html>

1°) Complete the introduction of the document:

The document is an \_\_\_\_\_ which was published on a \_\_\_\_\_ .

It is entitled \_\_\_\_\_ .

I think it deals with \_\_\_\_\_

2°) Read the text and complete the chart.

| PROPER NOUNS | INDICATION OF SPACE AND TIME |
|--------------|------------------------------|
|              |                              |

|  |  |
|--|--|
|  |  |
|--|--|

3°) Are these characters real or fictional? Classify them.

Dracula - William Thackeray - Mary Ann Evans - Phileas Fogg - the Brontë sisters - Edward Hyde -  
Charles Dickens - Lewis Carroll - Sherlock Holmes - Barry Lee - Charles Darwin

| Real | Fictional |
|------|-----------|
|      |           |

4°) Match each word from the text with its French translation.

A novel - a culprit - an issue - to attempt - the labor - provide - mandatory - though - significant -

|             |   |   |                         |
|-------------|---|---|-------------------------|
| A novel     | • | • | Le travail              |
| A culprit   | • | • | Significatif, important |
| An issue    | • | • | Un roman                |
| To attempt  | • | • | Obligatoire             |
| The labor   | • | • | Bien que                |
| To provide  | • | • | Un coupable             |
| Mandatory   | • | • | Tenter de, essayer de   |
| Though      | • | • | Fournir, assurer        |
| Significant | • | • | Un problème             |

5°) Répondez en français aux questions suivantes :

a) Indiquez les caractéristiques du roman à l'époque Victorienne.

b) Citer au moins 3 auteurs populaires à l'époque.

c) Dites ce qui a favorisé le développement de la littérature jeunesse.

d) Citez deux nouveautés littéraires de l'époque.

 6°) In your notebook, write a few lines in English to define the Victorian Age Literature.