

English Literature 5 – Victorian Novel

Victorian Age – Basic Features

Queen Victoria – Life and Influence. The historical and social context of the Era.
Famous Victorians. Spirit of the Age

Victorian Genre – General characteristics. Representatives & Writings

Charles Dickens: Life and Writings. Style & Themes

Great Expectations – plot & critical analysis

Obsession/emotional manipulation vs. love. Class structure & social rules

Awareness and acceptance of consequences

The effect of industrialization. Sin & moral redemption in *Great Expectations*

W. M. Thackeray: Life and Writings. Style, Themes, Ideas.

Vanity Fair - plot & critical analysis

Vanity Fair as a novel without a hero? Explain the irony involved.

Conflict in *Vanity Fair*. How do plot & idea support each other?

Hypocrisy & ethical principles in *Vanity Fair*

Emily Bronte: Life and Writings. Style, Themes, Vision.

Wuthering Heights - plot & critical analysis

Nature & culture in *Wuthering Heights*. Class structure. Rebellion & Obsession.

Realistic vs. Gothic. The role of supernatural.

George Eliot: Life and Writings. Style, Themes, Ideas.

The Mill on the Floss - plot & critical analysis

Eliot's dramatic sense & descriptive powers in *The Mill on the Floss*. Personal responsibility & development.

“Putting all the action inside”. An illustration that character is “not the whole of our destiny”. Eliot's vision in *The Mill on the Floss*.

Thomas Hardy: Life and Writings – Style, Themes, Ideas, Vision.

Tess of the d'Urbervilles - plot & critical analysis

Class system of English society near the end of the century. Hardy's naturalism.

Nature & fate. Hypocrisy & double standards. Physical and emotional energies.

Hardy's vision in *Tess of the d'Urbervilles*.

Oscar Wilde: Life and Writings. Style, Ideas, Mood. Wilde's Aestheticism.

The Picture of Dorian Gray - plot & critical analysis

Balance of body & soul. Dual nature of man. Narcissism & self-discovery. Role of innocence.

Wilde's Aesthetics in *The Picture of Dorian Gray*

Suggested reading material:

Deirdre D. (ed.). *The Cambridge Companion to the Victorian Novel*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. 2012.

Luebering, J. E. *The Britannica guide to world literature: English literature from the 19th century through today*. New York, NY: Britannica Educational Publishing. 2011.

Mušović, A. *Determinism or deconstructing the myth of love in L. Tolstoy's Anna Karenina and T. Hardy's Tess of the D'Urbervilles*. *Slavistika*, Beograd: Filološki fakultet, XXVI/2, 292-308. 2022.

Rodensky, L. *The Oxford handbook of the Victorian novel*. Oxford: Oxford University Press. 2016.

Saintsbury, George. *The English Novel*. London: Leopold Classic Library, 2016.

Walder, D. (ed.). *Approaching Literature: The Realist Novel*. London: Routledge, 2005.

Walder, D. (ed.) *The Realist Novel*. London: Routledge. 1996.

Van Ghent, Dorothy. *The English Novel: Form and Function*. London: Harper and Row. 1961.

Gallagher, Catherine. *The Industrial Reformation of English Fiction*. Berkeley: University of California Press, 1988.