

\*Core English 301\*

\*His. Of Eng. Liter. 1832-1890\*

\*UNIT 1\*

**\*B. Victorian Poetry:\***

**\*Δ \_What's Victorian Period?\_\***

In the \*history of the United Kingdom, the Victorian era was the period of Queen Victoria's reign from the June 1837 until her death on January 1901.\*

**\*Δ \_What's Victorian Poetry?\_\***

The \*poetry written in England during the reign of Queen Victoria (1837-1901) is referred to as 'Victorian Poetry.'\*

Following Romanticism, Victorian poets continued many of the previous era's main themes, such as religious skepticism and valorization of the artist as genius; but Victorian poets also developed a distinct poetic sensibility.

The writers of this period as \*known for their interest in verbal embellishment, mystical interrogation, breeding skepticism, and whimsical nonsense.\*

The most prolific and we'll regarded poets of the age included, \*Alfred Lord Tennyson, Robert Browning, Elizabeth Barrett Browning, Matthew Arnold, etc.\*

Victorian Poetry is *\*fundamentally a continuation of the Romantic Movement.\**

Victorian Poetry was *\*objective.\** *\*Victorian poets paid attention to thought rather than to feelings.\**

They're interested in *\*politics and social problems and revolutionary ideas.\**

### **Δ *\*\_Characteristics of the Victorian Poetry\_.\****

**(1) Realism**

**(2) Focus on Masses**

**(3) Pessimism**

**(4) Science & Technology**

**(5) Questioning to God**

**(6) Sense of Responsibility**

**(7) Morality**

**(8) Interest in Medieval Myths & Folklore**

**(9) Use of Sensory Devices**

**(10) Sentimentality**

**(11) Humour**

### **Δ *\*In details:\****

***\*(1) Realism-\****

The Victorian Poetry was \*quite realistic in nature and quite less idealised as compared to the Romantic Poets who were idealistic and believed in Art for the Art's Sake.\*

\*Nature, that was everything for the Romanticists\* lost that \*idealised that position in the Victorian era and became just a source of leisure and inspiration for the poets.\*

## **\*(2) Focus on Masses-\***

Romantic Poetry \*mainly focused on rural and rustic life.\*

It's \*no way related to city life.\*

On the other hand, Victorian Poets used \*language as well as themes common to city life and thus wrote about the masses and for the masses.\*

## **\*(3) Pessimism -\***

As already discussed, Victorians were \*quite realistic and thus were more concerned about the reality rather than the ideal world.\*

Due to the \*industrial revolution and advancement in science and technology, there was a drastic increase in the city population that gave rise to slums, poverty, unemployment, corruption, diseases, deaths, etc.\*

Thus, Victorian Poetry which \*focused on the pains & suffering of commoners had a note of Pessimism.\*

## **\*(4) Science & Technology-\***

The \*advancement in science and inventions\* was welcomed by the Victorian Poets.

It made them believe that \*a man can find all solutions to his problems & sufferings.\*

\*They made their readers believe that they should use science for their betterment.\*

## **\*(5) Questioning to God -\***

It was an **\*important feature of Victorian Poetry.\***

The **\*development of empirical science, rationalism & radicalism led the people to give up religious thoughts and be more sceptic.\***

Moreover, **\*corruption in the Church, defining the morality of priests, etc. also led the people to question the religious institutions.\***

### **\*(6) Sense of Responsibility-\***

The romantics believed in **\*"return in nature." \_\***

A number of the Romantics **\*didn't like the city life and instead of giving voice to the victims of industrialisation, they left the city life.\***

On the other hand, **\*Victorian poets took the responsibility of social reform and gave to the commoners by living with them.\***

### **\*(7) \_Morality- \_\***

Though **\*morality saw a steep decline in the Victorian era, a number of poets tried to retain it by encouraging the people to be honest and noble.\***

### **\*(8) \_Interest in Medieval Myths & Folklore- \_\***

The **\*Victorians showed great favour towards Medieval Literature.\***

They loved **\*mythical & chivalrous anecdotes of Medieval Knights, Courtly love, etc.\***

This interest is on **\*contrary to the of Romantics as the latter loved classical myths & legends.\***

### **\*(9) \_Use of Sensory Devices & Imagery-\_\***

The poets of the preceding era *used imagery vividly.*

However, the *Victorians also used sensory devices to describe the abstract scenes of chaos between Religion & Science.*

### **\*(10) \_Sentimentality-\_\***

The *Victorians wrote about artistic creations giving way to deeper imaginations.*

### **\*(11) \_Humour-\_\***

A number of Poets *wrote humourous and whimsical verses.*

e.g. *Bad Ballads.*

**~~> *The most important Poets of the Victorian age are:***

- 1. Alfred Lord Tennyson,**
- 2. Matthew Arnold,**
- 3. Robert Browning,**
- 4. Arthur Hugh Clough,**

5. Mrs. Elizabeth Browning, etc.

\_\_\_\_\_ ΔΔ•ΔΔ \_\_\_\_\_