

The Victorian World in Review: A Time of Upheaval

Optional Extra Credit by Teacher Permission ONLY

Instructions:

- 1) Choose any three Victorian novels that have been made into films, below. Most of them are freely available via the internet or on streaming sites, or can be rented via Netflix or Amazon, etc. You may also check your local library since they have MANY dvd titles to loan, and these are popular classics.
- 2) Meet in small groups to view the films or discuss the films, whatever works into your schedule. You should spend at least an hour discussing each film you viewed.
- 3) Take notes on the following:
 - a) comparison/contrast with Jane Eyre and/or Tess of the D'Urbervilles, as applicable;
 - b) novel/film's portrayal of the issues of the day & the Victorian mindset
 - c) the author's viewpoint of society as shown in the story;
 - d) the struggles of the protagonist and what this struggle shows about the human condition, society, his or her family, and or the desires of the antagonist.
- 3) Create a powerpoint, Keynote or written presentation that discusses your findings. This should be thorough. Look at the Victorian Issues below to help you with your discussion.

THOMAS HARDY

The Woodlanders
Far from the Madding Crowd
Under the Greenwood Tree
Jude (the Obscure)
The Turn of the Screw
The Mayor of Casterbridge
The Return of the Native
The Claim

THE BRONTËS

Wuthering Heights
The Tenant of Wildfell Hall
Wild Sargasso Sea

CHARLES DICKENS

Oliver Twist
David Copperfield
Bleak House
Nicholas Nickelby
Great Expectations
Little Dorritt
Our Mutual Friend
Martin Chuzzlewit
Hard Times

QUEEN VICTORIA & HER PEERS

Mrs. Brown
The Young Victoria
Victoria and Albert

OSCAR WILDE

Wilde
The Picture of Dorian Gray
The Importance of Being Earnest

FEMALE AUTHORS

Daniel Deronda (Eliot)
Middlemarch (Eliot)
The Mill on the Floss (Eliot)
Ethan Frome (Wharton)
Persuasion (Austen)

MANNERS PIECES

Vanity Fare (Thackeray)
The Age of Innocence (Wharton)

SOCIAL CULTURE/TIMES

Creation (Darwin)
North & South (Gaskell)
Cranford (gossip)
Firelight (governess, childbirth)

GOTHIC/ CRIME

From Hell
Sherlock Holmes (Conan Doyle)
Phantom of the Opera (Leroux)
The Elephant Man (Pomerance)
The Moonstone (Collins)

BILDUNGSROMAN

Little Lord Fauntleroy (Burnett)
The Lost Prince
Peter Pan (Barrie) (NOT DISNEY)
Alice in Wonderland (Carroll)

FALLEN WOMEN

Madame Bovary (Flaubert)
Daisy Miller (Henry James)
The Crimson Petal & the White

VICTORIAN ISSUES

- 1) Industrialism: Progress or Decline?
 - 2) Victorian Imperialism
 - 3) The Woman Question
 - 4) Economic and social change
 - 5) Burgeoning middle class
 - 6) Migration from country to city
 - 7) The mill town & urban factory
 - 8) Urban dwelling/slums
 - 9) Religious questioning & challenges
 - 10) Scientific discovery
 - 11) Expansion of reading class & printing
 - 12) Literature as 'voice to the voiceless'
 - 13) Britain's global influence
 - 14) Society & 'the ton' (the opinion of the uppercrust)
 - 15) Profit with a disregard of ethics
 - 16) A time of hope and progress
 - 17) Encouraging society to a higher good
 - 18) Inequality leads to a tipping point
 - 19) Feminist power and rights
 - 20) Radical change in awareness about humans & the human condition
 - 21) One's relationship with family
 - 22) The Male Gaze
- ... and any other issues you choose

**All members must be present at the time of the presentation to receive credit.

**All members must contribute equally to the task or the group may remove him/her from the presenting group.