

Presentation

By

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On

Victorian Novels and the Pre-Raphaelites

BA Hons. Semester I

Victorian Novel

Notable Writers

Charles Dickens

William Make peace Thackeray

Charlotte Bronte

Emily Bronte

Mrs. Gaskell

George Eliot

George Meredith

Thomas Hardy

Characteristics of Victorian Literature

- Victorian literature is realistic. It is characterised by social consciousness. It is the mirror of the currents, trends, and movements of the age.
- Victorian literature reflects many interests. It has become analytical, social, critical and sceptical with the help of science, democracy, inquiry, and the conflict between science and religion.
- Victorian literature has a moral purpose. Victorian writers do not write for art for art's sake. They hold up an ideal, and establish a moral lesson.
- Victorian literature bears the impact of science. Matthew Arnold's poems reflect a melancholic tone, Tennyson shows a scientific accuracy in describing nature, Browning offers a new way of looking at human psyche. In novels also, issues like heredity, biology, psychology, pathology are taken up by Victorian writers.
- As a whole, Victorian literature is critical of the age, society, and contemporary ideals.

Features of the Victorian Novel

- Reflecting the problems and ideals of the Victorian age.
- Realism as the essence of the Victorian novels.
- Driven by a definite moral purpose.
- Dealing with a wide panorama of society and touching the heights and depths of human passion simultaneously.
- Making lively characterisation, not character parts.
- Writing about diverse objects, multiple events and countless characters.

Pre-Raphaelite Poetry

- Pre-Raphaelite Brotherhood set in 1848 by D.G. Rossetti, J.E. Millais, W.H. Hunt.
- Taking the Italian painters before Raphael as their models.
- Finding in them simplicity, sincerity, religiosity, truth.
- Some of the members associated with this Brotherhood were poets.
- Rise of Pre-Raphaelite poetry incorporating the influence of art and artistic movement.
- Seeking to liberate art and poetry from the shackles of social consciousness.

Important Poets

D.G. Rossetti, W. Morris, A.C. Swinburne

Characteristics of Pre-Raphaelite Poetry

- Return to medievalism, love, chivalry, mysticism, superstition.
- This medievalism is different from medievalism exploited by Scott and Tennyson.
- Looking at past from the point of view of art. Dwelling chiefly on art for art's sake.
- Bearing the influence of Romanticism and romantic writers, particularly John Keats.
- Presence of music and melody in their poems.
- Frank and explicit portrayal of life, emotion and sexual passion.