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## **Features of Victorian Poetry**

### **Realism**

The Victorian Poetry was quite realistic in nature and quite less idealised as compared to the Romantic Poets who were idealists and believed in Art for the Art Sake. Nature, that was everything for the Romantics poets that idealised position in the Victorian era and became just a source of leisure and inspiration for the poets.

### **Focus on Masses**

Romantic Poetry mainly focused on rural and rustic life. It is 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.

### **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 and sufferings of commoners had a note of pessimism.

### **Science and 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 and sufferings. They made their readers believe that they should use science for their betterment.

### **Questioning to God**

It was an important feature of Victorian poetry. The development of empirical science, rationalism and 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.

### **Sense of Responsibility**

The Romantics believed in "return in nature". A number of the Romantics did not like the city life and instead of giving voice to the victims of industrialisation, they left the city life. On the other hand, Victoria poets took the responsibility of social reform and gave voice to the commoners by living with them.

**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. The Poet wanted to reach at the feet of Moral Ethics. On another way, Honesty is the best policy.

**Interest in Medieval Myths & Folklore**

The Victorians showed great favour towards Medieval Literature. They loved mythical and chivalrous anecdotes of Medieval Knights, Courtly Love etc. This interest is on the contrary to the Romantics as the latter loved classical myths and legends.

**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 and Science in the world.

**Sentimentality**

The Victorians wrote about artistic creations thus giving way to deeper imaginations. The Poet said literature creates emotion and sentiments for all living things.

**Humour**

A number of poets wrote humorous and whimsical verses. e.g. Bad Ballads.