

CHARACTERISTICS OF VICTORIAN NOVEL

B.A 3RD SEMESTER, CBCS

Paper: History of English Literature

Major Features

- Victorian novel depicted the social problems of that time.
- It satirized the vices present during that time.
- The importance is given to the middle class.
- Impact of Industrialisation
- Morality
- Industrialisation
- Loose plots

Major Novelists and Works

- George Eliot- *Middlemarch, Adam Bede, Romola*
- Thomas Hardy- *The Return of the Native, Far From the Madding Crowd*
- Charles Dickens- *A Tale of Two Cities*
- W. M. Thackeray
- Bronte Sisters- Anne, Charlotte and Emily Bronte

Dominant Themes

- Plight of the poor
- Depiction of Social Class
- Social Mobility
- Industrialism
- Utilitarianism
- Morality
- Exploitation of Children

Conclusion

- The Victorian period was a great, long period of peace, prosperity, progress and great social reforms for Britain but at the same time it was characterised by poverty, injustice and social unrest.