

THE BRITISH 19TH CENTURY 1798-1899

British Romanticism begins with William Wordsworth's revolutionary poetry of nature and rustic life in 1798. The "Romantic" age, a term coined by the philosopher Jean-Jacques Rousseau, means "wild, primitive, natural, fantastic." It values freedom of the human imagination, visionary world views, natural mystery, beauty, and creativity. The heights of Romanticism ended with Queen Victoria's ascension to the throne in 1837. The Victorian Period is named after Queen Victoria's reign from 1837 to 1901. Influenced by the industrial revolution, the rise of science, Darwinian evolution, global expansion, and social and spiritual unrest, Victorian writers invented the working class novel, crime stories, evolutionary science fiction and the psychotic thriller, and new literary concepts of childhood.

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1897: Marconi invents
the radio

1899

1851: Crystal Palace
in Hyde Park

1837:
Victoria crowned

1798

highlights

REPRESENTATIVE LITERARY WORKS

Frankenstein, Mary Shelley, 1818

Manfred, George Gordon, Lord Byron, 1816-17

Eve of St. Agnus, Lamia, John Keats, 1819

Lectures on Shakespeare & Milton, William Hazlitt, 1819

Ivanhoe, Sir Walter Scott, 1820

Prometheus Unbound, Percy Shelley, 1820

Past & Present, Thomas Carlyle, 1843

In Memoriam A.H.H., Alfred, Lord Tennyson, 1849

Sonnets, Elizabeth Barrett Browning, 1850

Hard Times, Charles Dickens, 1854

Alice's Adventures in Wonderland, Lewis Carroll, 1865

Dr. Jekyll & Mr. Hyde, Robert Louis Stevenson, 1886

Picture of Dorian Gray, Oscar Wilde, 1890

Goblin Market, Christina Rossetti, 1893

Time Machine, H. G. Wells, 1895

Dracula, Bram Stoker, 1897

Hound of the Baskervilles, Arthur Conan Doyle, 1902

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