

### Definitions

**Decadence** civilization was now characterized by the overly refined excesses of an elite class or eccentric geniuses

**Degeneration** reversion to a state of lesser complexity on the part of an individual, species, society, or nation.

**The New Woman** The "new woman" redefines what it means to be a woman; enters new areas of education and employment; demanding rights of citizenship; challenging the dominant social idea that women are inferior to men

**Laughter and Capitulation** Think about the role of laughter: a shift made to understand humour about something, to capitulate into laughing at that thing; in this case, aristocratic snobbery

**Colonialism vs Imperialism** imperialism involved the practice, the theory and the attitudes of a dominating metropolitan center ruling a distant territory, while colonialism refers to the implanting of settlements on a distant territory.

### Definitions (cont)

**Macaulay's Minute on Education** Desire to stray away from traditional Indian education system Focus more on Western forms/styles of education i.e. poetry of Milton, metaphysics of Locke & physics of Newton What is meant by "literature" and "learned natives"? Value of Language Superiority of English

**Scramble for Africa** The Scramble for Africa (or the Race for Africa) was the proliferation of conflicting European claims to African territory during the New Imperialism period, between the 1880s and the start of World War I.

**Tropes of Travel Literature** impressions and experiences, including his often strongly expressed opinions of the customs, cities, food arrangements for travelers, and political and religious institutions of the places he visited

### Definitions (cont)

**Reading culture** Novels were often serialized in monthly parts, making them more easily accessible and shared. Weekly or monthly segments often ended on a "cliff-hanger." Novels were thought to corrupt the working classes by giving them ideas above their station or encouraging them to emulate the life of fictional criminals.

**Domesticity** home or family life, an essential part of Victorian living.

**Motherhood** Link to Queen Victoria (the mother of England).

**Capital and Capitalism** Capitalism is an economic system and an ideology based on private ownership of the means of production and their operation for profit

**Marriage and Marriage Laws** Under the law the married couple became one entity where the husband would represent this entity, placing him in control of all property, earnings and money.



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### Definitions (cont)

**Detective Fiction** changes in policing, both locally and globally, and the cultural discomfort that surrounded those changes. The public increasingly perceived military engagement across the globe as unsettling, and transformations of policing at home occurred as well.

**Romantic Period (1st and 2nd generation)** a movement in the arts and literature that originated in the late 18th century, emphasizing inspiration, subjectivity, and the primacy of the individual. Second Gen - passion and emotion, incorporating so much more into intuitive thought, the supernatural, and exotic, greatly influenced, also, by classical Greek and Roman literature. First Gen - saw the transition in France from pre-revolution, revolution, Napoleon

**French Revolution** beginning of a change in the current ways of society and helping to improve the lives of the oppressed.

### Definitions (cont)

**Obeah** a system of belief among blacks chiefly of the British West Indies and the Guianas that is characterized by the use of magic ritual to ward off misfortune or to cause harm.

**The Gothic** Considered trashy, Austen mocks the gothic characteristics (a fear of all that is foreign, unfamiliar to an English sensibility).

**The Educational Novel** Revolve around the entry of a young, middle-class, well-bred person into society. Gendered differences – male characters go off to school and make a name for themselves. Women characters have to navigate courtship before making a good choice

**lamb** one short (or unstressed) syllable followed by one long (or stressed) syllable.

**Trochee** one long or stressed syllable followed by one short or unstressed syllable.

**Spondee** two long (or stressed) syllables.

**Pyrrhic** two short or unaccented syllables.

### Definitions (cont)

**Enjambment** continuation of a sentence without a pause beyond the end of a line

**Caesura** a break between words within a metrical foot

**The Sublime** Longinus - noble literature, elevating. Burke - how text personally impacts the reader, terror Wordsworth - nature is a key element, immersion in terror and beauty

**Peterloo Massacre** The Peterloo Massacre occurred at St Peter's Field, Manchester, England, on 16 August 1819, when cavalry charged into a crowd of 60,000–80,000 who had gathered to demand the reform of parliamentary representation.

**Masque** Dramatique entertainment, practiced by nobility.

**Chartism** closing the gap between working class and wealthy, argued for suffrage for men over 21 with "moral influence" shift in social awareness of class conditions.

**Workhouses** Prisons, symbols of tyranny. People would live here when poor. Shamed, loss of dignity, hard labour.



### Definitions (cont)

**Sentimentalism** Emotions, tears, crying, attempts to convince reader through emotion rather than reason.

**The Great Exhibition of 1851** Showcase of power, control, importance of Britain, Wealthy were educating the working class. An Ideological investment in empire and industry.

### Authors

**Mary Wollstonecraft** Vindication of the Rights of Women

**Maria Edgeworth** The Grateful Negro

**Jane Austen** Northanger Abbey

**Lord Byron** Darkness, Prometheus

**Percy Shelley** The Mass of Anarchy

**John Keats** The Fall of Hyperion

**Barrett Browning** The Cry of the Children

**Friedrich Engels** The Conditions of the Working Class

**Prince Albert** Speech Delivered at the Lord Mayors Banquet

**Charles Dickens** The Noble Savage, Dombey and Son

**Thomas Carlyle** Occasional Discourse on the Negro Question

**John Stuart Mill** The Negro Question

**Frances Power Cobbe** Criminals, Idiots, Women and Minors

**William Booth** In Darkest England

**Mary Elizabeth Braddon** Lady Audley's Secret

**Henry Stanley** Why Darkest England

**Mary Kingsley** Travels in West Africa

**Rudyard Kipling** The Man Who Would Be King

### Authors (cont)

**Oscar Wilde** The Importance of Being Ernest

**Joseph Conrad** Heart of Darkness

### Topics

First Generation Romanticism

Second Generation Romanticism

Early Victorian Social Reform

Mid Victorian Domesticity and Otherness

Capital

Angels and Fallen Women

Imperial Expansion and Manly Identities

Decadence and Degeneration

Imperial Reflections

### Essay Themes + Texts

**Marriage** Northanger Abbey, Vindication

**Slavery** Grateful Negro, Noble Savage

**Imperialism** The Man Who Would be King

**Class** Speech Prince Albert, Great Exhibition

**Victorianism** Lady Audley's Secret

**Romanticism** Northanger Abbey

**Detective Fiction** Lady Audley's Secret

**Serial Fiction** Dombey and Son,

**Sensational Novel** Lady Audley's Secret

**Educational Novel** Northanger Abbey

**Apocalypse** Prometheus, Darkness

**Social Reform** The Cry of the children, Conditions of the Working class

**Childhood** Florence in Dombey and Son.

