Transition to the Victorians

Important Events & Dates

- literacy
  - increase of reading materials and incandescent lights
  - cheaper than candles and allowed people to read later in the evening
- communication
  - telegraph, telephone, radio and photography
- 1830 First steam-powered railway
- 1832 First Reform Bill & Corn Laws
  - Reform Bill allowed vote to tenants w/rent of 50 pounds or more yearly
    - don't have to own land
  - Corn Laws tried to protect import of agriculture, but instead raised food prices
- 1833 Abolition of slavery in British Empire
- 1837 Victoria ascends to throne

Victorian Authors & Poets

Charles Dickens
George Eliot (*Middlemarch*)
Thomas Hardy (*Jude the Obscure*)
John Ruskin (architectural critic)
John Stuart Mill (championed women’s rights)
Alfred, Lord Tennyson (equal to Wordsworth)
Elizabeth Barrett Browning (“How do I love thee”)
John Henry Cardinal Newman (Catholicism)
Robert Browning (“My Last Duchess”)
Edward Fitzgerald (*The Rubáiyát*)
Charles Darwin (*On the Origins of Species*)
George Sand (French)
Coventry Patmore (“Angel in the House”)
Charlotte Brontë (*Jane Eyre*)
Emily Brontë (*Wuthering Heights*)
Elizabeth Gaskell (novelist)
Sir Arthur Conan Doyle (Sherlock Holmes novels)
Florence Nightingale (ultimate nurse)
Sarah Stickney Ellis (women’s rights/duties)
Wilkie Collins (*The Moonstone*)
Caroline Norton (defeated coverture)
Queen Victoria (letters published; anti-feminist)

Matthew Arnold (“Dover Beach”)
Robert Louis Stevenson (*Dr. Jekyll & Mr. Hyde*)
Dante Gabriel Rossetti (Pre-Raphaelite)
Christina Rossetti (“Goblin Market”)
William Morris (Pre-Raphaelite; like William Blake)
Walter Pater (critic)
Gerald Manley Hopkins (poet)
Frances Trollope (novelist)
Anthony Trollope (novelist)
William Makepeace Thackeray (*Vanity Fair*)
Lewis Carroll (*Alice in Wonderland*)
Edward Lear ("Owl & the Pussycat")
Beatrix Potter (*Peter Rabbit*)
Henry James
Rudyard Kipling (*Just So Stories*)
H. Rider Haggard (*King Solomon’s Mines*)
Oscar Wilde (*The Picture of Dorian Gray*)
“Michael Field”
Bram Stoker (*Dracula*)
D.H. Lawrence (*Sons & Lovers*)
E.M. Forster (*A Passage to India*)

Interesting Victorian Websites

*The Victorian Web* (http://www.victorianweb.org/)
*Victoria Research Web* (http://victorianresearch.org/)
*Victorian Women Writer’s Project* (http://www.indiana.edu/~letrs/vwwp/)