

**Love & Relationships - Knowledge Organiser**

**Victorian Poetry**

- Poetry written during the reign of Queen Victoria from 1837 to 1901.
- **Romanticism** was huge movement in 18th and 19th century literature, whereby writers focused on the power of (and connections between) human emotion and the natural world.
- Realism**: the defining characteristic of Victorian poetry was its depictions of reality - the ordinary people facing the day-to-day problems of life rather than a romanticised view.
- Naturalism**: the examination of life using scientific observation (as technology was developing, science & medicine were advancing and the industrial revolution booming). The Victorians began to reject the idea that nature mirrored human emotions.
- The Victorians were less idealistic than the Romantics (focused on the beautification of nature and escape from reality) and thus, they were focused on the suffering and pain of commoners living in poverty and poor health. The development of science led Victorians to become more sceptical as corruption in the church became more prevalent leading to moral dilemmas, even questioning God.

**Key Words**



**Subject Terminology**

- 1) **Passivity** - allowing others to do things to you without complaining or pushing back
- 2) **Unrequited** – feelings that are not returned or reciprocated
- 3) **Nostalgia** - an affectionate feeling you have for the past, especially for a particular memory or time
- 4) **Poignant** – having a very sharp feeling of sadness or regret
- 5) **Disenchantment** - a feeling of disappointment about someone/something you previously admired
- 6) **Sentimental** – strongly influenced by emotional feelings rather than by reason
- 7) **Idyllic** – a place or experience is extremely pleasant, beautiful or peaceful
- 8) **Reminiscing** – talking fondly or writing pleasantly about past experiences
- 9) **Conventional** – behaviour or opinions that are in accordance with standards or beliefs.
- 10) **Euphemism** - a word or phrase used to avoid saying an unpleasant or offensive word
- 11) **Infatuation** - an intense but short-lived passion or admiration for someone or something
- 12) **Romanticised** - to think about or describe something as more appealing or interesting than it really is
- 13) **Perpetual** – never ending or repeatedly continuing in the same way
- 14) **Ambiguous** - open to more than one interpretation; not having one obvious meaning
- 15) **Idealised** – to think of or represent someone or something as perfect or better than in reality
- 16) **Pathos** – something that evokes feelings of pity and sadness

**The Sonnet Forms**

Sonnet is a type of poem; poems have many different forms. Sonnets have a set structure; poems do not. Sonnets are written in Iambic Pentameter; poems can be written in any metrical pattern. Sonnets have 14 lines; poems vary in lines.

**Petrarchan Sonnet (Italian)**

- This sonnet form first became popular during the Italian Renaissance (14<sup>th</sup> century) when the poet Petrarch published a sequence of love sonnets addressed to a woman. The sonnet quickly spread throughout Europe to England.
- The Petrarchan sonnet is divided into two main parts, called the *octave* and the *sestet*.

**Shakespearean Sonnet (Elizabethan)**

- In Elizabethan England (16<sup>th</sup> Century)—the era during which Shakespeare’s sonnets were written—the sonnet was the form of choice for poets seeking to engage with traditional themes of love and romance.
- There are fourteen lines in a **Shakespearean sonnet**. The first twelve lines are divided into three quatrains with four lines each followed by a rhyming couplet.

**Literacy Focus**



**Colon (:)**  
The colon can be used to introduce an idea that is an explanation or continuation of the one that comes before the colon. It can also be used to introduce a list.

**Semi-Colon (;)**  
The Semi-Colon can be used between two closely related independent clauses without using a conjunction.

**Ellipsis ...**  
When words are left out of a sentence but it’s meaning can still be understood, to create suspense or show the trailing off of a thought.

**Contemporary Poetry**

Contemporary poetry is usually defined as poetry written after the start of the 1920s or as a style of poetry written in the present day.

- Contemporary poetry means more than a specific time period or an association with a literary style.
- Contemporary poets commonly use free verse (irregular meter or rhythm). The expressive freedom in language and structural looseness allows poets to explore new ideas and the representation of reality, societal issues and identity.

**Literature Skills:**

- AO1:** clear points supported with references.
- AO2:** Analysis using Subject terminology.
- AO3:** Links to Historical & Social context.

**LANGUAGE**

**Imagery** – language that makes us imagine a sight (visual), sound (aural), touch (tactile), smell or taste.

**Tone** – the mood or feeling created in a poem.

**Irony** – language that says one thing but implies the opposite eg. sarcasm.

**Colloquial Language** – informal language, usually creates a conversational tone or authentic voice.

**Sibilance** – the repetition of s or sh sounds.

**Assonance** – the repetition of similar vowel sounds  
Consonance – repetition of consonant sounds.

**STRUCTURE**

**Stanza** – a group of lines in a poem.  
Repetition – repeated words or phrases

**Enjambment** – a sentence or phrase that runs onto the next line.

**Caesura** – using punctuation to create pauses or stops.

**Contrast** – opposite concepts/feelings in a poem.

**Oxymoron** – a phrase that contradicts itself.

**Anaphora** – when the first word of a stanza is the same across different stanzas.

**Volta** – a turning point in a poem.

**FORM**

**Speaker** – the narrator, or person in the poem.

**Iambic Pentameter** – short unstressed syllable followed by a long stressed syllable

**Free verse** – poetry that doesn’t rhyme.

**Sonnet** – poem of 14 lines with clear rhyme scheme.

**Rhyming couplet** – a pair of rhyming lines next to each other.

**Meter** – arrangement of stressed/unstressed syllables.

**Monologue** – one person speaking for a long time.