

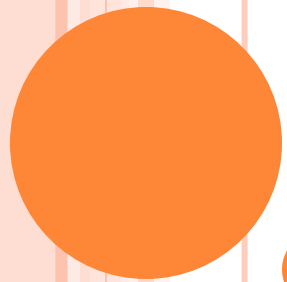
REVIEW: WHERE WE'VE BEEN

AP LANG THEMES

Overall Essential Question: **How and why does perspective shape argument?**

- Summer Reading (nonfiction argument/ analysis)
Does adversity elicit talents? doubt vs. certainty?
- Media Bias (ethical appeals, fallacies analysis)
How has social media/24-7 coverage changed news?
- *Thousand Splendid Suns* (Sharia law/ analysis)
How does alienation showcase values? past influence present?
- 21st Century Gender Restrictions (synthesis)
Are men or women more constrained by stereotypes?





VICTORIAN PERIOD

1832-1900

VICTORIAN PERIOD

- Queen Victoria took throne in 1837 (at 18)
- Long reign, died in 1901 (at 82)
- England became wealthiest nation
- British Empire expansion
 - “The sun never sets on England.”
 - Queen-empress over 200 million people living outside Great Britain
 - India, North America, South Pacific, etc.



VICTORIAN PERIOD

- Industrial Revolution - booms & depressions
- Created new towns, goods, wealth, jobs for people climbing through middle class
- Social & economic changes expressed in gradual political reforms
 - First Reform Bill in 1832 extended vote to all men who owned property worth 10 lbs
 - Second Reform Act in 1867 gave the right to vote to working-class men (except agricultural workers)



VICTORIAN PERIOD

- Women for suffrage – did not succeed until 1918 (30 & over)
- Universal adult suffrage 1928 extended vote to women at age 21
- Factory Acts – limited child & women labor
- State supported schools est. in 1870; compulsory in 1880; free in 1891
- Literacy rate increased from 40% to 90% from 1840-1900.



VICTORIAN PERIOD

- Paradox of progress
 - Victorian – synonym for prude; extreme repression; even furniture legs had to be concealed under heavy cloth not to be “suggestive”
- New ideas discussed & debated by large segment of society
 - Voracious readers
 - Intellectual growth, change and adjustment



VICTORIAN PERIOD

- Decorum & Authority – Victorians saw themselves progressing morally & intellectually
- Powerful middle-class obsessed with “gentility, decorum” = prudery/Victorianism
- Censorship of writers: no mention of “sex, birth, or death”



VICTORIAN PERIOD

- Decorum – powerful ideas about authority
 - Victorian private lives – autocratic father figure
 - Women – subject to male authority
 - Middle-class women expected to marry & make home a “refuge” for husband
 - Women had few occupations open to them
 - Unmarried women often portrayed by comedy by male writers



VICTORIAN PERIOD

○ Intellectual Progress

- Understanding of earth, its creatures & natural laws (geology, Darwin – theory of evolution)
- Industrialization of England depended on and supported science and technology.



VICTORIAN PERIOD

- Materialism, secularism, vulgarity, and sheer waste that accompanied Victorian progress led some writers to wonder if their culture was really advancing by any measure.
- Trust in transcendental power gave way to uncertainty & spiritual doubt.
 - Late Victorian writers turned to a pessimistic exploration of the human struggle against indifferent natural forces.



VICTORIAN PERIOD

- Victorian writing reflects the dangers and benefits to rapid industrialization, while encouraging readers to examine closely their own understanding of the era's progress.



OSCAR WILDE (1854-1900)

- Born in Dublin; father physician; mother writer (poetry/prominent figure in Dublin literary society)
- Excelled in classical literature (Trinity C.)
- Scholarship to Magdalen College (Oxford)
- Famous for brilliant conversation & flamboyant manner of dress & behavior
 - “Dandy” figure based himself



OSCAR WILDE (1854-1900)

- Student of “aesthetic movement” – which rejected older Victorian insistence on moral purpose of art
- Celebrated value of “art for art’s sake
- Settled in London
- Mocked Victorian notions about moral seriousness of great art
- Treated art as the “supreme reality” and treated life as “fiction”
- Split life: Married/Oxford don
- Fell in love with student (Bosie); sued by father-Lord Douglas/his work used against him



OSCAR WILDE (1854-1900)

- *The Importance of Being Earnest* (produced 1895) most famous comedy
- Complicated plot turns upon fortunes and misfortunes of two young upper-class Englishmen:
 - John Worthing and Algernon Moncrieff
 - Each lives double life; creates another personality to escape tedious social/family obligations

	Town	Country
Jack	“Ernest” (via fictional young brother/excuse)	Jack
Algernon	Algie (via Bunbury/excuse)	“Ernest”



OSCAR WILDE (1854-1900)

- Plot composed of events of the most improbable & trivial significance
- Real substance of play witty dialogue
 - According to Wilde, trivial things should be treated seriously and serious things should be treated trivially.
- Title based on satirical double meaning: “Ernest” is the name of fictitious character, also designates sincere aspiration



OSCAR WILDE (1854-1900)

- Making the “earnestness” of his Ernest the key to outrageous comedy, Wilde pokes fun at conventional seriousness
- Uses solemn moral language to describe frivolous and ridiculous action



OSCAR WILDE (1854-1900)

- *The Importance of Being Earnest* uses the following literary devices:
 - Paradox: seems contradictory but presents truth
 - Inverted logic: words/phrases turned upside down reversing our expectations
 - Pun: play on words using word or phrase that has two meanings



OSCAR WILDE (1854-1900)

○ Literary Devices continued

- Epigram: brief, witty, cleverly-expressed statement
- Parody: humorous mocking imitation of literary work
- Satire: ridicules through humor
- Irony: something you don't expect to happen
- Foreshadowing: creates suspense through hints to the ending



OSCAR WILDE (1854-1900)

○ The Comedic Ladder

- Comedy of Ideas (high comedy)
 - Characters argue about ideas like politics, religion, sex, marriage.
 - They use wit, their clever language to mock their opponent in an argument.
 - This is a subtle way to satirize people and institutions like political parties, governments, churches, war, and marriage.



OSCAR WILDE (1854-1900)

- Comedy of Manners (high comedy)
 - The plot focuses on amorous intrigues among the upper classes.
 - The dialogue focuses on witty language. Clever speech, insults and “put-downs” are traded between characters.
 - Society is often made up of cliques that are exclusive with certain groups as the in-crowd, other groups (the would-be-wits, desiring to be part of the witty crowd) and some (the witless) on the outside.



OSCAR WILDE (1854-1900)

- Farce (can be combination of high/low)
 - The plot is full of coincidences, mistimings, mistaken identities.
 - Characters are puppets of fate – they are twins, born to the wrong class, unable to marry, too poor, too rich, have loss of identity because of birth or fate or accident, or are (sometimes) twins separated, unaware of their double.



OSCAR WILDE (1854-1900)

○ Low Comedy

- Subjects of the humor consists of dirty jokes, dirty gestures, sex, and elimination
- The extremes of humor range from exaggeration to understatement with a focus on the physical like long noses, cross eyes, humped back and deformities.
- The physical actions revolve around slapstick, pratfalls, loud noises, physical mishaps, collisions – all part of the humor of man encountering and uncooperative universe.

