

11:1a—The Victorians (Overview)

“The sun never sets on the British Empire”

Queen Victoria (1837-1901)

- longest reigning British monarch—sixty-four years
- presided over Britain’s greatest period of change
- Reform Laws
- New political and economic theories
- Social change
- Religious growth/change
- Scientific/Industrial change
- not a politically powerful monarch—inspirational and motivational



Victorian Literature

- Romanticism
- Realism
- Naturalism
- poetry reflected all three “isms”—great variety
- drama seemed flat and uninspiring
- the age of the novel

11:1b—The Victorians (Overview)



Alfred, Lord Tennyson (1809-1892) (left)

- named Poet Laureate by Queen Victoria in 1850
- wrote elegiac *In Memoriam A.H.H.* after the death of college friend Arthur Hallam
- mastered various forms of poetry

“Ulysses”

- Ulysses/Odysseus of *The Odyssey*—twenty-year absence from home
- poem’s events take place some time after his return home to Ithaca
- Ulysses seems discontented—with what?
- Compare Ulysses’ past life with current one
- “Yet all experience is an arch where through Gleams that untraveled world whose margin fades Forever and forever when I move” (lines 19-21)
- Discusses his son, Telemachus—why?
- What awaits Ulysses?
- “To strive, to seek, to find, and not to yield”