Victorian England Exploration

Introduction

The purpose of this web-quest is to answer the following essential question: what was Victorian England like and how does Dickens represent the different social issues in Great Expectations. The different roles you can take are: anthropologists, social workers, prison wardens, committee of women's studies, or department of education.

Tasks

In order to complete your role as anthropologist, social worker, prison warden, committee of women's studies, or department of education, you will be using the internet; I have provided websites to assist your research on this process. You will be completing notes as you research with proper MLA citation that will be passed in with your final magazine article.

Process

You will work in your table groups, so groups of 3-4. Each member of the group is responsible for conducting their own research and writing their own article. What will be discussed as a group is a name for the magazine and the assignment of different roles. The roles include: anthropologist, social worker, prison warden, member of women's studies committee, chairperson of education department.

Part I: Everyone Before you become an expert on one of the social issues concerning Pip, we'd better make sure that everyone on your Web Quest team knows the basics. Use the links below to answer the following questions. These questions will be handed in, so make sure that you answer them in complete sentences!

1) Why is it called the Victorian Era? Name one specific element that defines this time period.
2) Based on Charles Dickens' life, what social issues do you think were important to Charles Dickens?
3) What are the main social classes in Victorian England? How are they divided? Give a brief description of each.

Charles Dickens

Social History: Overview

Victorian Background

Victorian Introduction

Social Class

Race and Class: Overview

Section II: Topic Specific Groups - Research

Anthropologists-- Your job is to examine the differences between the social classes of the Victorian period.

Guiding Questions:
1. Manners and etiquette: How did Victorian men and women behave in upper class society?
2. How was a true gentleman defined?
3. Do we have social classes in our society today? How? What sort of social pressures are shown? How must Pip measure up to being a gentleman? How does Estella and Miss Havisham view Pip?

Social Worker--

Guiding Questions:
1. What was the state of child labor in the Victorian era? How was social class related to child labor?
2. In the Victorian era, what types of public health or child care agencies existed?
3. How is child labor still an issue today? How were debtors treated? What rules and laws are present in Great Expectations? How did the penal laws affect Pip?

Prison Warden--

Guiding Questions:
1. Victorian England, who was in charge of creating laws? How did the society attempt to solve its social problems in its justice system? How did the prison system in Victorian England work? How were debtors treated? How is it similar to the Victorian era?

Committee of Women's Studies Member--

Guiding Questions:
1. Women had what roles and responsibilities?
2. What kind of restrictions did women face? 3. How did social class affect a woman’s opportunities? **What role do women play in the novel?**

Ideals of Womenhood: Source One & Source Two & Source Three

Chairperson Department of Education—Your job is to research the role of education in the Victorian Age.

**Guiding Questions:** 1. Examine the Victorian educational system. You will need to distinguish between education for the wealthy and education for the poorer classes. How did social class affect an individual’s education and upbringing? 2. Compare and contrast the education of men and women in the Victorian era. 3. Examine the role of an apprentice. **How is Pip educated by Joe? How does his education change?**

**Education: Site Map**

Day in the Life & Apprentice & Part III: Topic Specific Groups - Magazine Article & After your research and notes are complete, it is time to compile all that information into a magazine article. The article should provide the background information of your research while answering the essential question: what was Victorian England like? How does Dickens represent the different social issues in Great Expectations? Make sure you connect it back to the novel!

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Evaluation

This assignment will count as a major grade so be thoughtful in the entire process from notes to written article. Thursday, January 31 in hard copy:

**Part I: Overview Questions (Typed and in complete sentences) 10 points**

- Due Tuesday, February 2 in hard copy: Part II: Notes from Research 10 points

**Part II: Notes from Research 10 points**

- Due Tuesday, February 2 in hard copy: Part III: Magazine Article

**Part III: Magazine Article 60 points**

- Must address central question of what was Victorian England like and how does Dickens represent the different social issues in Great Expectations.
- Must have interesting article title.
- Must have picture with caption (Picture can be from online, but give proper citation).
- Must be typed.
- Must be edited.

**Use of class time with computers: 10 points**

**Total: 100 points**

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**Category and Score**

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**Total Score**

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**Conclusion**

Thanks to your background research you now have a better understanding of life in the Victorian Era. You also now have a better understanding of the world in which Pip is living.