Transition to the Victorians
Dr. Katherine D. Harris

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                              Matthew Arnold (“Dover Beach”)
George Eliot (Middlemarch)                  Robert Louis Stevenson (Dr. Jekyll & Mr. Hyde)
Thomas Hardy (Jude the Obscure)             Dante Gabriel Rossetti (Pre-Raphaelite)
John Ruskin (architectural critic)          Christina Rossetti (“Goblin Market”)
John Stuart Mill (championed women’s rights)William Morris (Pre-Raphaelite; like William Blake)
Alfred, Lord Tennyson (equal to Wordsworth) Walter Pater (critic)
Elizabeth Barrett Browning (“How do I love thee”) Gerald Manley Hopkins (poet)
John Henry Cardinal Newman (Catholicism)    Frances Trollope (novelist)
Robert Browning (“My Last Duchess”)         Anthony Trollope (novelist)
Edward Fitzgerald (The Rubáiyát)            William Makepeace Thackeray (Vanity Fair)
Charles Darwin (On the Origins of Species)  Lewis Carroll (Alice in Wonderland)
George Sand (French)                        Edward Lear (“Owl & the Pussycat”)
Coventry Patmore (“Angel in the House”)     Beatrix Potter (Peter Rabbit)
Charlotte Brontë (Jane Eyre)                Henry James
Emily Brontë (Wuthering Heights)            Rudyard Kipling (Just So Stories)
Elizabeth Gaskell (novelist)                H. Rider Haggard (King Solomon’s Mines)
Sir Arthur Conan Doyle (Sherlock Holmes novels)Oscar Wilde (The Picture of Dorian Gray)
Florence Nightingale (ultimate nurse)        “Michael Field”
Sarah Stickney Ellis (women’s rights/duties)Bram Stoker (Dracula)
Willkie Collins (The Moonstone)              D.H. Lawrence (Sons & Lovers)
Caroline Norton (defeated coverture)         E.M. Forester (A Passage to India)
Queen Victoria (letters published; anti-feminist)

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/)