

- anthologised but representative poems by women such as Cecil Alexander, Elizabeth Craigmyle, Anne Ellison and Emily Hickey.
- Ricks, Christopher, ed. *The New Oxford Book of Victorian Verse*. Oxford University Press, 1990. Comprehensive volume that includes a sampling of light verse, non-sense and protest poetry among its representations of more major works like Fitzgerald's 'The Rubáiyát of Omar Khayyám' and Clough's verse-novel 'Amours de Voyage'.
- Robinson, Solveig C., ed. *A Serious Occupation: Literary Criticism by Victorian Women Writers*. Peterborough, Ontario: Broadview Press, 2003. A helpful volume that demonstrates women's contributions to the field of literary criticism, with essays covering topics related to specific genres and individual authors, and more general studies of the role of literature.
- Small, Ian, ed. *The Aesthetes: A Sourcebook*. London: Routledge & Kegan Paul, 1979. Essential source for documents related to the cultures of aestheticism and decadence in late-nineteenth century Britain.
- Weber, A. S. *Nineteenth-Century Science: A Selection of Original Texts*. Peterborough, Ontario: Broadview Press, 2000.

B Introductions and overviews

- Altick, Richard D. *The English Common Reader: A Social History of the Mass Reading Public, 1800–1900*. 2nd edn. Columbus: Ohio State University Press, 1998. Study of the social, political and economic conditions that influenced reading in nineteenth-century Britain, with special emphasis on the reading preferences and habits of the middle and working classes.
- The Presence of the Present: Topics of the Day in the Victorian Novel*. Columbus: Ohio State University Press, 1991. Overview of the ways Victorian novelists responded to and appropriated what was happening in the world. Examines such topics as 'consumer goods', 'popular entertainments', 'money and occupations', 'new ways of riding and writing'.
- Victorian People and Ideas: A Companion for the Modern Reader of Victorian Literature*. New York: Norton, 1973. An influential guide to the period that shows how certain issues and debates in the period evidence such themes such as the 'utilitarian spirit', the 'Evangelical temper', 'religious movements and crises' and 'the nature of art in society'.
- Armstrong, Isobel. *Victorian Poetry: Poetry, Poetics, and Politics*. London: Routledge, 1993. A revisionary literary history of Victorian poetry that places Tennyson and Browning in the context of conservative and Benthamite aesthetics of the avant-garde and that focuses on Clough, Arnold, Browning and others in the context of mid-century revolutionary culture. Substantial chapters on Swinburne, Hopkins, Meredith and James Thomson round out this influential analysis.
- Briggs, Asa. *Victorian People: A Reassessment of Persons and Themes, 1851–67*. University of Chicago Press, 1972. Focusing on the period between the Great Exhibition (1851) and the second Reform Act (1867), Briggs assesses the accomplishments and achievements that characterise the Victorian age.

- David, Deirdre, ed. *The Cambridge Companion to the Victorian Novel*. Cambridge University Press, 2001. The wide-ranging essays in this collection focus on major novelists as well as on lesser-known writers such as Olive Schreiner and H. Rider Haggard. Highly regarded scholars approach the novel through the lens of such themes as gender, race, empire, science and industrialism.
- Davis, Paul. *Charles Dickens, A to Z. The Essential Reference to His Life and Work*. New York: Checkmark Books, 1999. An extremely useful guide to Dickens that identifies characters and locations in his works and provides detailed summaries of the novels, analyses of their themes and techniques and overviews of their critical reception.
- Davis, Philip. *The Victorians. Volume 8: 1830–1880*. Oxford University Press, 2002. A comprehensive and detailed overview of the period that organises its discussion around broad themes such as ‘the rural to urban’, ‘nature’, ‘religion’ and ‘mind’, and that situates its examination of genres (including sub-genres such as ‘the sensation novel’ and ‘fairy tales and fantasies’) within discussion of the conditions of literary production.
- Gilmour, Robin. *The Victorian Period: The Intellectual and Cultural Context of English Literature, 1830–1890*. Harlow: Longman Anthology, 1993. One of the most highly regarded studies of the developments and people that influenced the intellectual climate of the period. Gilmour’s study pays particular attention to the Victorian preoccupation with time and interest in history.
- Harris, Jose. *Private Lives, Public Spirit: Britain: 1870–1914*. Harmondsworth: Penguin, 1994. A study of the ways that the latter part of the Victorian period fostered the re-emergence of a spirit of activism that, Harris contends, extended well into the twentieth century.
- Houghton, Walter E. *The Victorian Frame of Mind, 1830–1870*. New Haven and London: Yale University Press, 1957. One of several overviews of the period still considered required reading. Focusing on the emotional, intellectual and moral attitudes that characterise Victorians, Houghton argues for their distinctive contributions to the modern mind.
- McCord, Norman. *British History 1815–1906*. Oxford University Press, 1991. An extremely detailed and thorough history of the period that pays particular attention to political, economic, administrative and social institutions and developments. McCord traces the same ideas and themes through four separate periods (1815–30; 1830–50; 1850–80; and 1880–1906).
- Mitchell, Sally. *Daily Life in Victorian England*. Westport, CT: Greenwood Press, 1996. An extremely readable and well-illustrated study of everyday life in the era that makes abundant use of its wide-ranging primary sources.
- Mitchell, Sally, ed. *Victorian Britain: An Encyclopedia*. Garland, 1988. A valuable and comprehensive reference book with entries on an enormous array of people, institutions, movements and ideas, each with suggested further reading.
- O’Gorman, Francis, ed. *A Concise Companion to the Victorian Novel*. Oxford: Blackwell, 2005. A collection of original essays by experts in the field that examines the novel in the light of social and historical contexts such as visual culture, empire, sexuality, biology and the law.