

## Guidelines for Selection of Victorian Literature

### 1840 – 1910

Victoria reigned from 1837 to 1901, which is referred to as the **Victorian Period**, while her son, Edward VII, reigned from 1901 to 1910, which is often referred to as the **Edwardian Period**. For the purposes of the Feis the guideline for selection of Literature is **1840 – 1910**.

There is a wealth of material available and this period is regarded as one of the *finest* in the history of literature. Many writers were working at this time, and many before and after the time scale. It is strongly recommended that performers select work that was written during the set time scale. Try, as much as possible to ascertain the year in which the item was written, not necessarily published. If a piece falls outside the time scale, though the author worked largely within that frame work, then the item will be admissible provided it has the tone of the period.

Listed below are *recommended authors and anthologies*, though not compulsory. It is not an extensive nor exclusive list, but a suggestion and a starting point for performers and teachers. Please do not hesitate to look at Irish and American authors of this period as well.

### **POETRY ANTHOLOGIES**

The New Oxford Book of Victorian Poetry, Ed. Christopher Ricks.  
ISBN 0-19-282778-2

Penguin Popular Poetry – Victorian Poetry Selected by Paul Driver.  
ISBN 0-14-062209-8

The Oxford Book of Victorian Verse Selected by Sir Arthur Quiller Couch.

Sounds of the Deep Waters – Women’s Romantics in Victorian Verse  
By Pamela Norris. Little Brown Co.  
ISBN 0-316-88876-1

The Penguin of Victorian Verse Selected by George McBeth.  
ISBN 0-14-042-1106

Everyman Book of Victorian Verse by J.R Watson. J.M Dent Co.  
ISBN 0-460-04453-2

## POETS

Allingham, William 1824 – 1889	Gray, John 1866 – 1934	Rossetti, Christina 1830 – 1894
Arnold, Matthew 1822 – 1888	Hardy, Thomas 1840 – 1928	Rossetti, Dante Gabriel 1828 - 1882
Ashe, Thomas 1836 – 1889	Henry, James 1798 – 1876	Ruskin, John 1819 – 1900
Belloc, Hilaire 1870 – 1953	Hood, Thomas 1799 – 1845	Stevenson, Robert Louis 1850 – 1894
Bronte, Charlotte 1816 – 1855	Hopkins, Gerard Manley 1844 – 1889	Swinburne, Algernon Charles 1837 – 1909
Bronte, Emily 1818 – 1848	Houseman, A.E. 1859 – 1936	Tennyson, Alfred 1809 – 1892
Browning, Elizabeth Barrett 1806 – 1861	Kingsley, Charles 1819 – 1875	Thackeray, William 1811 – 1863
Browning, Robert 1812 – 1889	Kipling, Rudyard 1865 – 1936	Thompson, James 1834 – 1882
Carroll, Lewis 1832 – 1898	Lear, Edward 1812 – 1888	Turner, Charles 1808 – 1879
Clare, John 1793 – 1864	Meredith, George 1828 – 1909	Tynan, Katharine 1861 – 1931
Clough, Arthur Hugh 1819 – 1861	Nesbit, E. 1858 – 1924	Wilde, Oscar 1854 – 1900
Coleridge, Mary 1861 – 1907	Newman, John Henry 1801 – 1890	Yeats, W. B. 1865 – 1939
French, Percy 1854 – 1920	Patmore, Coventry 1823 – 1896	

<b>PROSE WRITERS</b>	<b>PLAYWRIGHTS</b>
Bronte, Anne 1820 – 1849	Barrie, James 1860 – 1937
Bronte, Charlotte 1816 – 1855	Galsworthy, John 1867 – 1933
Bronte, Emily 1818 – 1848	Jones, Henry Arthur 1851 – 1929
Collins, Wilkie 1824 – 1889	Pinero, Sir A.W. 1855 – 1934
Conrad, Joseph 1857 – 1924	Shaw, George Bernard 1856 – 1950
Dickens, Charles 1812 – 1870	Synge, John Millington 1871 – 1909
Eliot, George 1819 – 1880	Wilde, Oscar 1854 – 1900
Forster, E. M. *** 1879 – 1970	Yeats, W.B. 1865 – 1935
Gaskell, Mrs. 1810 – 1865	
Hardy, Thomas 1840 – 1928	
James, Henry 1843 – 1916	
Kingsley, Charles 1819 – 1875	
Kipling, Rudyard 1865 – 1936	
Meredith, George 1828 – 1909	
Reade, Charles 1814 – 1884	
Stevenson, Robert Louis 1850 – 1894	
Thackeray, William Makepeace 1811 – 1863	
Trollope, Anthony 1815 – 1882	

\*\*\* Some major works fall within the specified period.