**De Aston**

**English Department**

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**Year 9: Read All About It**

**Challenge Tasks**

**Name:**

**Week One:**

This week, you will have learnt about different Victorian contexts. Choose one of the tasks below to demonstrate your understanding of this topic. You can work individually or with a partner.

* A Venn diagram showing similarities and differences between Victorian London and modern London;
* A collage of pictures showing different aspects of life in Victorian London;
* A guide to surviving a night homeless in Victorian London.

Be creative but be prepared to justify your choices and how they show your understanding of your topic.

**Week Two:**

Fact, fiction and Jack the Ripper. This week, choose a challenge task:

**Hard** – create your own Victorian serial killer and write two paragraphs about their life and behaviour;

**Harder** – compare Jack the Ripper and Spring-heeled Jack in a Venn diagram;

**Hardest** – create your own sensational Victorian style newspaper account about the Grenfell fire.

**Week Three:**

Natural selection! Choose a challenge!

**Hard** – describe the elephant man;

**Harder** – as a concerned Victorian, write a letter to Charles Darwin explaining why he is wrong about evolution;

**Hardest** – write a letter to Queen Victoria arguing for or against capital punishment.

**Week Four-Six:**

Now it’s time for some project work. This project will take you two weeks to complete.

With a partner or on your own, choose a task below.

1. Create your own story based in Victorian London.
2. Write a scene from a play about fear in Victorian London.
3. Create a recipe explaining how to write a sensationalist newspaper account. Include examples from modern tabloid newspapers to illustrate each ingredient.

**Bonus week:**

Read the extract below from a Guardian newspaper article and complete the ‘all’ question and one more of the questions below:

**All:** list four things you learn about the Elephant Man in this extract.

**Hard:** what genre is the text and how do you know?

**Harder:** how does the writer use language to interest the reader?

**Hardest:** to what extent does the text provide a range of opinions?

Joseph Merrick, who was better known as the “Elephant Man” in the late 1800s, should be given a Christian burial in his home town of Leicester, campaigners have said.

His remains are stored in a glass case in a private room at Queen Mary, University of London, and can be viewed by medical students and professionals by appointment.

Merrick appeared in travelling “freak shows” before he died aged 27 in 1890. From the age of five he began to suffer from Proteus syndrome – an exceptionally rare medical problem that causes bones, skin and other tissue to grow excessively.

Valerie Howkins, the granddaughter of Tom Norman – one of Merrick’s former managers – said last year’s burial of Richard III in Leicester had prompted her to call for a dignified burial.

“There was just no question when he died that he would go back to Leicester to be buried,” she told the BBC. “He was Christian and would have expected a Christian burial.”

Howkins added: “It’s not right that his bones should be stuck in a box in a store room.”

**Additional challenge tasks:**

Make sure you understand what each of these words means and show your understanding by trying to use them in your classwork. Then learn how to spell them – be ready for a spelling test in the last week of term.

**Hard:**

1. Journalism 2. Emphasis 3. Tabloid 4. Viewpoint 5. Empathy

**Harder:**

1. Sensationalism 2. Syntax 3. Etiquette 4. Aristocracy 5. Decry

**Hardest:**

1. Heinous 2. Reprehensible 3. Alacrity 4. Complacency 5. Inept

**Final challenge:**

Finally, challenge yourself to read a short story from Victorian times. The Sherlock Holmes mystery stories, written over a forty-year span from 1887 to 1927, represented the good, the bad, and the ugly of Victorian society: its ideals, its accomplishments, and its deepest fears. The entire collection is available to read for free online. Read one of the stories, then in your book explain what the story shows about life in Victorian times.

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For more resources, including literacy support, visit www.deastonenglish.com