British Romanticism begins with William Wordsworth’s revolutionary poetry of nature and rustic life in 1798. The “Romantic” age, a term coined by the philosopher Jean-Jacques Rousseau, means “wild, primitive, natural, fantastic.” It values freedom of the human imagination, visionary world views, natural mystery, beauty, and creativity. The heights of Romanticism ended with Queen Victoria’s ascension to the throne in 1837. The Victorian Period is named after Queen Victoria’s reign from 1837 to 1901. Influenced by the industrial revolution, the rise of science, Darwinian evolution, global expansion, and social and spiritual unrest, Victorian writers invented the working class novel, crime stories, evolutionary science fiction and the psychotic thriller, and new literary concepts of childhood.
Representative Literary Works

Frankenstein, Mary Shelley, 1818
Manfred, George Gordon, Lord Byron, 1816-17
Eve of St. Agnus, Lamia, John Keats, 1819
Lectures on Shakespeare & Milton, William Hazlitt, 1819
Ivanhoe, Sir Walter Scott, 1820
Prometheus Unbound, Percy Shelley, 1820
Past & Present, Thomas Carlyle, 1843
In Memoriam A.H.H., Alfred, Lord Tennyson, 1849
Sonnets, Elizabeth Barrett Browning, 1850
Hard Times, Charles Dickens, 1854
Alice’s Adventures in Wonderland, Lewis Carroll, 1865
Dr. Jekyll & Mr. Hyde, Robert Louis Stevenson, 1886
Picture of Dorian Gray, Oscar Wilde, 1890
Goblin Market, Christina Rossetti, 1893
Time Machine, H. G. Wells, 1895
Dracula, Bram Stoker, 1897
Hound of the Baskervilles, Arthur Conan Doyle, 1902