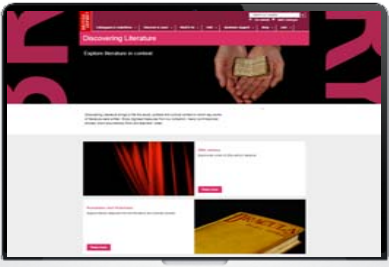


A short tour of
Discovering Literature



A rich, reliable research space for exploring literature in context

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Dr Andrea Varney
andrea.varney@bl.uk

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A thousand years of English literature
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Romantics and Victorians
2014

Shakespeare & Renaissance Writers
2016-17

20th century - prose, poetry & drama
2016-17

Medieval
2018

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June 2018


Over 8 million visitors

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Putting prose in perspective

- **Getting to grips with genre**
The rise of the novel, women's writing, the Gothic, science fiction, crime fiction
- **Looking at texts in context**
The authors' cultural, social and political worlds
- **Rich resources on Edexcel novels**
Frankenstein, *The War of the Worlds*, *Wuthering Heights*, *Tess of the D'Urbervilles*, *Mrs Dalloway*, *The Picture of Dorian Gray*, *Dracula*, *Hard Times*, *The Moonstone*, *A Passage to India*



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What are the aims of the website?

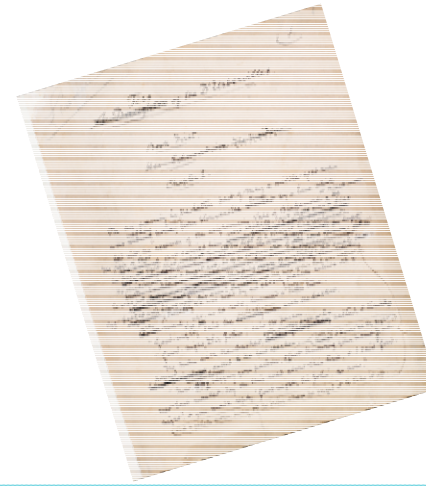


- Inspiring teachers, GCSE and **A-level students**, undergraduates and life-long learners
- Opening up the treasures in our collections
- Bringing literature to life, in context
- Making experts' views accessible
- Building a bridge between schools and universities

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Literary manuscripts



- fallible
- human
- intimate
- immediate

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<https://www.bl.uk/collection-items/manuscript-of-the-first-and-last-chapter-of-tes-of-the-furbervilles-by-thomas-hardy>

6

Rich contextual sources

- Dance manuals, tabloids, penny dreadfuls, photos, posters, a slang dictionary
- liberating, intriguing, inspiring
- Use for starters, displays, group work

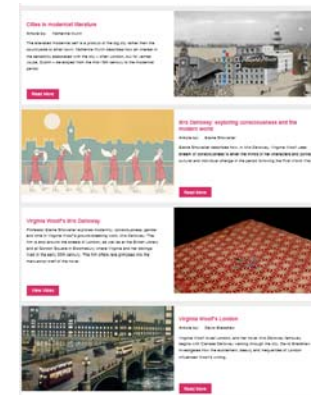


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<https://www.bl.uk/collection-items/an-analysis-of-country-dancing>

7

Short illustrated articles



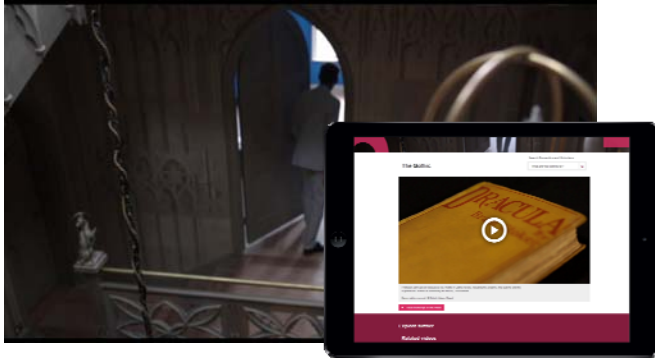
- written by teachers, academics, directors, actors, poets and curators
- refresh your knowledge
- inspire new ways into the texts
- independent research
- alternative interpretations
- springboards for discussion
- model excellent writing

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<https://www.bl.uk/20th-century-literature/articles>

8

Short films shot on location

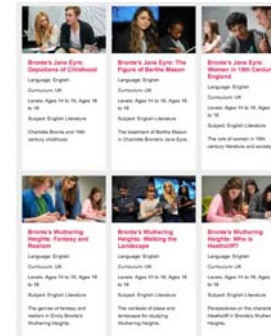


<https://www.bl.uk/romantics-and-victorians/videos/the-gothic>

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Teachers' resources



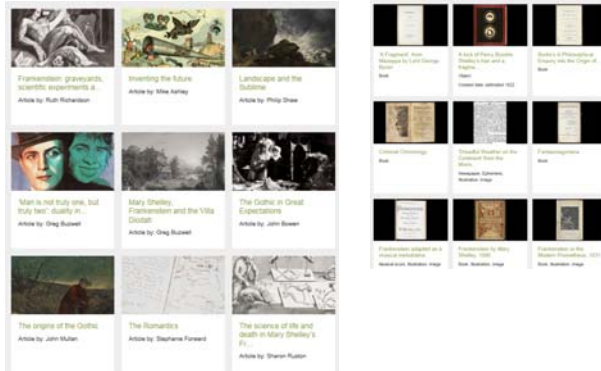
- Pathways through the content – quick links to selected sources and articles
- Creative ideas, key questions, dynamic activities
- Extension tasks

<https://www.bl.uk/romantics-and-victorians/teaching-resources>

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Browse by work: e.g. *Frankenstein*



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<https://www.bl.uk/works/frankenstein>

11



<https://www.bl.uk/collection-items/galvani-the-effects-of-artificial-electricity-on-muscular-motion>

<https://www.bl.uk/collection-items/galvani-the-effects-of-artificial-electricity-on-muscular-motion>

<https://www.bl.uk/collection-items/criminal-chronology>

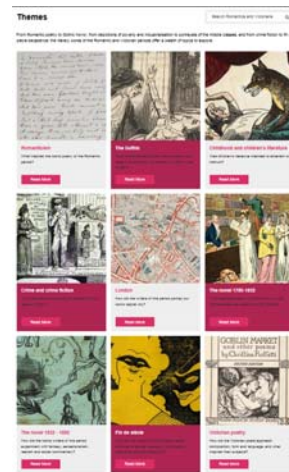
'Perhaps a corpse would be re-animated; galvanism had given token of such things'

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Browse by theme

- Technology and science
- Crime and crime fiction
- The Gothic
- Gender and sexuality
- The rise of the novel
- Childhood and children's literature



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<https://www.bl.uk/romantics-and-victorians/themes>

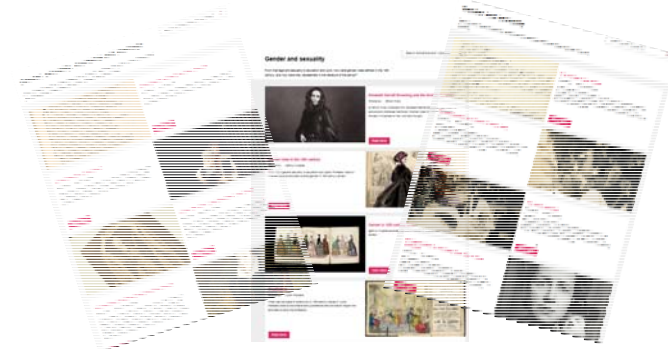
13

Compare themes across different eras e.g. Gender and sexuality

Shakespeare and
Renaissance Writers

Romantics and Victorians

20th century



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We'd love to hear your comments

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Shakespeare: bl.uk/shakespeare

Restoration and 18th-century: bl.uk/restoration-18th-century-literature

Romantics and Victorians: bl.uk/romantics-and-victorians

20th century: bl.uk/20th-century-literature



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