Annnotated Bibliography

Victorian Web [http://www.victorianweb.org/]
A great resource for teachers and students to learn more about all aspects of Victorianism from art to philosophy to religion, science and technology. This page is a gigantic encyclopedia on Victorian England and includes a volume of information on Oscar Wilde (as well as other Victorian authors) and decadence.

The Importance of Being Earnest: Synopsis/Analysis [http://homepages.together.net/~theatre/earnest/synopsis.htm]
A page full of quick, interesting facts about Oscar Wilde, the original opening of the play, and the latest production of it in London commemorating Wilde’s release from prison.

Discussion Questions about The Importance of Being Earnest [http://ccwf.cc.utexas.edu/~govind/earnestq.html]
These are questions that have been published in a teacher’s resource guide for The Importance of Being Earnest and discuss themes and other aspects of the play that would be good to bring up with a class.

ISU Play Concordance [http://www.public.iastate.edu/~spires/Concord/earnestsearch.html]
This is an interesting resource, allowing you to search the entire text of the play or generate a list of all the words in the play, etc. This word list can even tell you how frequently the word is found in the play.

The Picture of Dorian Gray by Oscar Wilde
This creepy novel brings readers up close and personal with themes of aestheticism, morality, and deception found in The Importance of Being Earnest but on a whole new level. While the play treats these things rather lightly, The Picture of Dorian Gray forces the issues to be reckoned with.

A Doll’s House by Henrik Ibsen
An interesting way to look at issues relating to marriage.

The Victorian Home by Ellen M. Plante (176 pages)
Lots of full-color pictures to take us into the setting of the play.

Victorian Style by Judith Miller (240 pages)
Explores the styles of the time as well as the historical and social reasons for them.

Pleasure Wars: Bourgeois Experience, Victoria to Freud by Peter Gay (324 pages)
Insights into the Victorian period.

The Victorians by John Gardiner (304 pages)
Includes a biographical account about Oscar Wilde as well as Charles Dickens and Queen Victoria.

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Thematic Bibliography

Victorian Home
Victorian Style

Decadence

Pleasure Wars

Society

Peter Gay

Morality

The Importance of Being Earnest

Marriage

The Victorians

Honesty

An Age in Retrospect

The Picture of Dorian Gray

John Girder

Oscar Wilde

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