The Victorian novel

- didactic aim
- entertainment
- serialisation

- conflicts of the time
- women's issues
- gap between rich and poor
- progress

Realism and Naturalism

portraying **reality** as it is in art and literature

- verisimilitude
- ordinary realities
- plain style
- 'objective' narrative voice

more and more '**mass literature**' in the 2nd half of 19th century

Decadentism

rejection of the bourgeois values and withdrawal into a refined world of aesthetic contemplation

aesthetes (lovers of beauty) express a sense of
- social decline
- weariness
- isolation

end of 19th century: **pessimism**, uncertainty and a sense of **apocalypse**