

THE VICTORIAN COMPROMISE (pag. 299)

Exercise 1

Compromise means an action, usually a political action, to take an equal solution between two sides.

The word is related to the Victorian age because it was an era of contradictions: on the one hand, it was an age of progress, stability and great social reforms, on the other, it was also characterized by poverty, injustice...

Exercise 2

| Noun | Adjective |
|----------------|-------------|
| stability | stable |
| duty | dutiful |
| respectability | respectable |
| comfort | comfortable |
| charity | charitable |
| patriarchy | patriarchal |
| chasteness | chaste |
| prudery | prudish |

Exercise 3

The Victorian Age was a complex and contradictory era: it was the age of progress, **stability**, great social reforms but it was also characterized by poverty, injustice and social unrest.

The Victorians were great **moralizers**: they faced a large number of problems on such a scale, that they felt obligated to support certain values with offered solutions or escapes. They promoted a code of values that reflect the world as they wanted it to be, not as it really was, based on personal **duty**, hard work, respectability and charity. In this periods was very important to work hard for improve the society. The idea of respectability distinguished the middle from lower class.

Respectability was a mixture of both morality and hypocrisy, severity and conformity to social standards. It implied the possession of good manners, the **ownership** of **comfortable** house with servants and a carriage, regular attendance at church, and **charitable** activity.

Philanthropy was a widespread phenomenon; it addressed itself to a very kind of poverty, to "stray children, fallen woman and drunk men" and absorbed the energies of thousands of Victorians, large number of whom were women.

Middle-class ideals dominated Victorian family life. The family was a **patriarchal** unit where the position of the husband was dominant. It was a role imposed upon him by the divine providence. The husband represented the authority and the key role of woman regarded the education of children and the housework. The subservience of women was clearly underlined by the enormous difficulties they faced if they cast aside the roles expected of them. The concept of 'fallen woman' was a fate imposed upon thousands of women by a society with intense concern for female chastity. Sexuality was generally repressed in its public and private forms, and **prudery** in its most extreme manifestations led to denunciation of nudity in art, and the rejection of words with sexual connotation from everyday vocabulary.

Exercise 4

1. The Victorians feel forced to promote a strict code of values because they need to reflect the world as they wanted it to be, not as it really was.
2. The classes who refined this code were the upper and middle classes.
3. The Victorian code of values consist of personal duty, hard work, respectability and charity. Respectability was a mixture of both morality and hypocrisy, severity and conformity to social standards. It implied the possession of good manners, the ownership of comfortable house with servants and a carriage, regular attendance at church, and charitable activity. life. The family was a patriarchal unit where the position of the husband was dominant. Sexuality was generally repressed in its public and private forms.
4. The word compromise in the Victorian way of life means a contradictory way of live: progress, stability on one hand, social unrest on the other.