

Literature Review in Harvard Format

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Introduction
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Conclusion
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Narrative Time And Moral Judgment In Victorian Novels

Victorian novels often manipulate narrative time to guide reader judgment. Literary scholars examine how delayed revelation, retrospective narration, and extended moral reflection shape ethical interpretation in nineteenth-century fiction.

Research shows that temporal distance allows narrators to frame events with moral authority. Miller (2012) argues that retrospective narration encourages readers to reassess earlier actions through a moral lens shaped by outcome and consequence. Other studies emphasize pacing, noting that slow narrative time reinforces ethical deliberation rather than immediate judgment (Shuttleworth, 2014).

Further scholarship connects narrative time to social norms. Victorians valued moral development, and extended narration mirrors this cultural emphasis on gradual ethical formation (Poovey, 2008). These findings suggest that time functions as a structural tool for moral instruction.

The literature presents narrative time as central to Victorian ethical storytelling. Ongoing research continues to explore how temporal structure influences reader responsibility and interpretation.

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References

References – alphabetical
order, hanging indent

Miller, J.H., 2012. *Reading Narrative*. Norman: University of Oklahoma Press.

Poovey, M., 2008. *The Proper Lady and the Woman Writer*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press.

Shuttleworth, S., 2014. *The Mind of the Child*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.