**Historical Narrative – What was life like in Victorian England?**

The period of history that began almost 200 years ago in 1837 was called the Victorian era.. It lasted from 1837 to 1901, and it was a time when Queen Victoria ruled over a vast and bustling kingdom. Let me take you on a journey through this fascinating period in history!

In the Victorian cities, life was a bit different from what we know today. The Industrial Revolution was in full swing, and cities were bustling with tall chimneys, factories, and lots of people looking for work. The air was thick with smoke, and rivers were black and dirty because of all the factories. Houses were crammed close together along narrow streets, and many people lived in tall, narrow buildings.

People moved to these crowded cities in search of jobs, especially in the new factories that were popping up everywhere. Most of these factories were textile factories, where machines worked tirelessly to create fabrics. However, working in these factories was not easy. The machines were loud and dangerous, and workers faced risks like going deaf, losing fingers, or even getting trapped and losing their lives. The air was filled with smoke and dust, which could damage their lungs, and the materials they worked with were sometimes poisonous.

Now, let's peek into the homes of Victorian families. If they weren’t rich but were a lucky member of the working classes, they might be able afford a tiny house with one or two rooms. But for many families they had to share a single room with another family. There was no running water or toilets inside the houses; instead, families shared an outside toilet and used a water pump in the street. Because of the rapid growth of cities during the Industrial Revolution, houses were built quickly and were not of the best quality.

As for school, it was a very different experience from what you know today. Children had to follow strict rules, like standing whenever an adult entered the room and only speaking when spoken to. Lessons were repetitive, with lots of chanting and writing on slates. Boys and girls often had different lessons, such as sewing for girls and mechanics for boys. Punishments for breaking rules included wearing a dunce's hat, sitting in the corner, or even being caned.

But not everything was gloomy in Victorian Britain! The railways were built, and they changed life for people in Cornwall. Goods like fish, dairy, and fresh flowers could now be easily transported to big cities. This improved sales and profits for Cornish farmers and fishermen. The railways also (eventually) helped transport mined goods like tin and clay, creating job opportunities for labourers and engineers. There were many positives of life in Victorian Britain to the life that had come before it. Machinery made difficult labour easier; music records were introduced for playing music; and electricity was invented. Steam trains revolutionised travel, allowing people to go on holidays. By the end of the era, all children could attend school for free. The Victorians introduced Christmas trees, cars, and crackers, and Charles Dickens, a famous author, wrote stories like "A Christmas Carol" and "Oliver Twist."

However, not everything was rosy. For a large part of the early Victorian era, cities became overcrowded, and there was a big gap between the rich and the poor. At the start of the Victorian age, children and adults worked in dangerous conditions, and many families had to work together just to afford food. Rules governed everything in Victorian society, from what people wore to how children behaved. However, over the length of the Victorian period, laws were created which made life better for the poor. Therefore, the Victorian era left a lasting impact on history, with both its positive and negative aspects. And so, the story of the Victorian era comes to an end, leaving behind a legacy that we can still learn from today.