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① DARWINISM AND ENGLISH LITERATURE :-

Darwinism is a theory of biological evolution developed by Charles Darwin and others, stating that all species of organism arise and develop through the natural selection of small, inherited variations that increase the individual's ability to compete, survive and reproduce. Though it usually refers strictly to biological evolution, the term has been used by creationists to refer to the origin of life, and has been applied to. More recently, evolutionary ideas have been used to explore how text and even language change over time.

Darwin's work captivated the public interest and infiltrated the minds of Victorian writers. Evolution is full of good material of books and plays, competition the struggle for existence, and lots of sex. Darwin also disturbed people's views of themselves and

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made them question their values and ideals. Darwinian themes pop up again and again in Victorian literature and in the work of writers such as Thomas Hardy, Alfred Tennyson, Samuel Beckett, George Eliot and Bernard Shaw.

Another way Darwin's Theory of Evolution has influenced literature has been the application of evolutionary principles to the study of how texts change through time. Before printing was invented, manuscripts of important books were copied by hand. This introduced errors, some random, some probably on purpose. These changes are in some ways akin to mutation in DNA and evolution through descent with modification.

For many years literary scholars have been interested in studying how and when different versions of the same text arose, more recently this has involved applying models developed to understand

the evolution of DNA. This new systematic analysis can be used to reconstruct the probable original text and see when and in what ways this text has been edited through the decades.