Mr. Neumire Internet Research Paragraph: Superstitions

3/17/14 9th Period

**Superstitions in Victorian England**

Superstitions exist in every part of the world and always have, and the Victorians were no different. The Victorian period, which spanned from 1837 until 1901 while Queen Victoria held the throne, was a time of both Charles Darwin’s scientific progress, and yet also a time of mystical beliefs and superstitions (Corbella). As Stephen Butt has put it, “In Victorian England, alongside the developing scientific principles of research and exploration, accusations of witchcraft were still commonplace and still taken very seriously.” Butt adds, “In Victorian England, belief in a spirit world was supported by the search for physical proven evidence. Sometimes this led to the most absurd claims being given a false credibility because the attention given to them by well-known writers and thinkers.” This combination of accelerating science and yet a persistent belief in superstitions was evident in Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, who was famous and well-educated, but actually once declared he had proof (later proven false) that fairies existed (Butt).

**Works Cited**

Butt, Stephen. *The Victorians and the Supernatural*. n.p., 2003. Web. 17 Mar. 2014. <

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Corbella, Alexandra. *Superstitious Beliefs of Victorian Society*. Demand Media, 2001. Web. 17

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