

# THE OLD ENGLISH PERIOD

## THE HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

The departure of the Romans in 410 left the British population open to the invasions of the invaders from the north.



The ANGLO-SAXON INVADERS, who came to Britain in the latter part of the fifth century A.D. eventually established their kingdoms there, were the founders of English culture and English literature.



In Anglo-Saxon England there were Saxon kingdoms (in the south and southwest), Anglian kingdom (in the east, north, and midlands), and the Jutish Kingdom of Kent in the southeast.



The GERMANIC TRIBES (Angles, Saxons and Jutes) were heathen, and their conversion began with the arrival of AUGUSTINE in Kent in 597. He had been sent by GREGORY THE GREAT with a band of monks in order to achieve this missionary task. The Roman Church had sponsored Augustine's mission.

## ENGLISH AND DANISH KINGS BEFORE THE NORMAN CONQUEST

### THE HOUSE OF WESSEX

1. 802 - 839 — ECGBERT
2. 839 - 858 — ÆTHELWULF
3. 858 - 860 — ÆTHELBALD
4. 860 - 865 — ÆTHELBERHT
5. 865 - 871 — ÆTHELRED
6. 871 - 899 — ALFRED THE GREAT
7. 899 - 924 — EDWARD THE ELDER
8. 924 - 924 — ÆLFHEARD (DISPUTED)
9. 924 - 939 — ÆTHELSTAN
10. 939 - 946 — EDMUND I
11. 946 - 955 — EADRED
12. 955 - 959 — EADWIG
13. 959 - 975 — EDGAR, THE PEACEFUL
14. 975 - 978 — EDWARD, THE MARTYR
15. 978 - 1013 — ÆTHELRED, THE UNREADY

### HOUSE OF DENMARK

16. SWEYN FORK BEARD (25 DEC 1013 - 3 FEB 1014)

England came under the control of SWEYN FORKBEARD, a DANISH KING, after an invasion in 1013, during which ÆTHELRED abandoned the throne.

and went into exile in Normandy.

HOUSE OF WESSEX (RESTORED, FIRST TIME)

Following the death of SWEYN FOREBEARD, ÆTHELRED the Unready returned from exile and was again proclaimed king on 3 FEB 1014

17. ÆTHELRED THE UNREADY - 1014 - 1016

18. EDMUND IRONSIDE - 1016 - 1016

HOUSE OF DENMARK (RESTORED)

Following the decisive BATTLE OF ASSANDUN ON 18 OCT 1016, KING EDMUND signed a Treaty with Cnut in which all of England except for Wessex would be controlled by Cnut. Upon EDMUND's death on 30 NOV, Cnut ruled the whole kingdom as its sole king.

19. CANUTE, CNUT THE GREAT - 1016 - 1035

20. HAROLD HAREFOOT - 1035 - 1040

21. HARTHACNUT - 1040 - 1042

HOUSE OF WESSEX (RESTORED, SECOND TIME)

After HARTHACNUT, there was a brief SAXON RESTORATION between 1042 and 1066.

22. EDWARD THE CONFESSOR - 1042 - 1066

23. HAROLD GODWINSON - 1066 - 1066 (6 JAN - 14 OCT)

24. EDGAR ÆTHELING - 15 OCT 1066 - 17 DEC 1066

## HOUSE OF NORMANDY

In 1066, several rival claimants to the English throne emerged. Among them DUKE WILLIAM II of Normandy, descendant of Rollo, founder of the royal HOUSE OF NORMANDY defeated ~~invasion~~ GODWINSON in the NORMAN CONQUEST OF ENGLAND, after the BATTLE OF HASTINGS.

25. WILLIAM I / THE CONQUEROR - 1066-1087

26. WILLIAM II - 1087-1100

27. HENRY I - 1100-1135

## HOUSE OF BLOIS

28. STEPHEN OF BLOIS - 1135-1154

## HOUSE OF ANJOU / PLANTAGENET

29. HENRY II - 1154-1189

30. RICHARD I - 1189-1199

31. JOHN LACKLAND - 1199-1216

LOUIS VIII OF FRANCE: He briefly ruled England from 1216 to 1217. However, in signing the treaty known as THE TREATY OF LAMETH in 1217, Louis conceded that he had never been the legitimate king of England.

## HOUSE OF PLANTAGENET

32. HENRY III	- 1216 - 1272	
33. EDWARD I	- 1272 - 1307	
34. EDWARD II	- 1307 - 1327	
35. EDWARD III	- 1327 - 1377	
36. RICHARD II	- 1377 - 1399	Tell the tale of CHAUCER

# THE OLD ENGLISH PERIOD

## LITERARY FEATURES OF THE PERIOD

1. PAGAN POEMS: Many of the poems of the period appear to have in them features which are associated with the past, in particular WIDSITH AND BEOWULF. It appears likely, therefore, that the earliest poems of the time have their origins in the Continental home of the English people.

2. ANONYMOUS ORIGIN: Of all the Old English poets we have direct mention of only one Caedmon. Of the rest we do not even know their names.

3. THE IMITATIVE QUALITY: Much of the prose and some of the poetry is translated or adapted from the Latin. The favourite works of translation were the books of the Bible, the lives of the saints, and various works of a practical nature.

4. THE MANUSCRIPTS: The manuscripts in which the poetry is preserved are late in date, are unique, and are four in number.

They are:

a) The Beowulf MS. - It contains BEOWULF and JUDITH

b) The Tiberius MS. - It contains CAEDMONIAN poems.

c) The EXETER BOOK - It contains two signed poems of Cynewulf

d) The Vercelli Book - It also contains two of the signed poems of Cynewulf: ANDREAS and THE DREAM OF THE ROOD.

### THE LANGUAGE

There were four main dialects:

1. NORTHUMBRIAN: The first to produce literature
2. MERCIAN: The language of the Midlands
3. KENTISH: The language of the south-east
4. WEST-SAXON: The language of Alfred, which due to political supremacy became the standard language.



# THE OLD ENGLISH POETRY

## PAGAN POEMS

1. BEOWULF — EPIC, GERMANIC ORIGIN, WEST-SAXON DIALECT
2. WIDITH — OLDEST POEM IN THE LANGUAGE
3. WALDERE
4. THE FIGHT AT FINNEBURH
5. THE BATTLE OF BRUNANBURH
6. THE BATTLE OF MALDON

## ELEGIES

- |   |   |  |
|---|---|--|
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. THE WANDERER</li><li>2. THE SEAFARER</li><li>3. THE WIFE'S LAMENT</li><li>4. HUSBAND'S MESSAGE</li></ol> | } | <p>MEDITATIVE IN CHARACTER<br/>APPEAR IN THE EXETER BOOK</p> |
|---|---|--|

## THE CAEDMON GROUP

- |  |   |                                 |
|--|---|---------------------------------|
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. THE GENESIS</li><li>2. EXODUS</li><li>3. DANIEL</li><li>4. CHRIST AND SATAN</li></ol> | } | <p>APPEAR IN THE JUNIUS MS.</p> |
|--|---|---------------------------------|

## THE CYNEWULF GROUP

- |  |   |   |
|--|---|---|
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. JULIANA</li><li>2. ELENE</li><li>3. CHRIST</li><li>4. THE FATE OF THE APOSTLES</li><li>5. THE DREAM OF THE ROOD</li></ol> | } | <p>• FOUR POEMS CONTAIN THE SIGNATURE OF CYNEWULF IN RUNIC LETTERS.<br/>• THE SIGNED POEMS ARE MUCH MORE SCHOLARLY COMPOSITIONS THAN THE CAEDMON POEMS.</p> |
|  | } | <p>CANNOT BE ALLEGED TO CAEDMON.<br/>FINEST OF ALL OLD ENGLISH RELIGIOUS POEMS.</p>   |



# PROSE

## 1. ALFRED - FATHER OF ENGLISH PROSE

WORKS: (A) FIVE IMPORTANT TRANSLATIONS

- I. PASTORAL CARE OF POPE GREGORY
- II. HISTORY OF THE WORLD - OROSIUS
- III. ECCLESIASTICAL HISTORY - BEDE
- IV. CONSOLATION OF PHILOSOPHY - BOETHIUS
- V. SOLILOQUIES - ST. AUGUSTINE

## (B) THE ANGLO-SAXON CHRONICLE

## 2. AELFRIC - BEST KNOWN FOR HIS 'GRAMMAR'

- I. CATHOLIC HOMILIES
- II. LIVES OF <sup>THE</sup> SAINTS
- III. COLLOQUY

## 3. WULFSTAN - BISHOP OF WORCESTER

- I. SERMO LUPI AD ANGLOS

## THE MIDDLE ENGLISH PERIOD

### POINTS TO REMEMBER:

1. The texts written down at the end of the Old English period are in the West Saxon dialect.

Gradually a standard is developed, which was to become the Received Standard English of to-day, from the East Midland dialect, this was due in part to the importance of that area in the period and to the importance of the capital, London.

2. The influence of French and Latin words is undoubtedly great, but at the same time there are some poets who are following in the line of development from the Old English period.

3. The anonymous nature of the writing is strongly evidenced.

3a. Much of the surviving work of the period is poetry.

3b Latin was the language of official documents and, indeed, of learning.

4. From the literary point of view, however, more important than definite events were the general movements of the times:

i) The rise of the religious orders.

ii) The blossoming of chivalry and romance.

iii) The widening of the European outlook.

5. POETRY can be classified into three main groups, according to the nature of the subject:

#### i. CHRONICLES

a) LAZARUS'S BRUT : This was written about 1205 by Lazarus, a monk of Abbeey Kings.

The chief source is the Roman de Brut of Wace, itself a translation into Norman-French of the Historia Regum Britannie of Geoffrey of Monmouth.

6) ROBERT OF GLOUCESTER - Written by a Monk named Robert of Gloucester.

7) ROBERT MANNING OF BRUNNE } → AUTHOR  
ii. STORY OF ENGLAND }  
iii. HANDLYN SYNGE } → WORKS

## ii) RELIGIOUS AND DIDACTIC POETRY

a) ORMULUM

b) THE OWL AND THE NIGHTINGALE

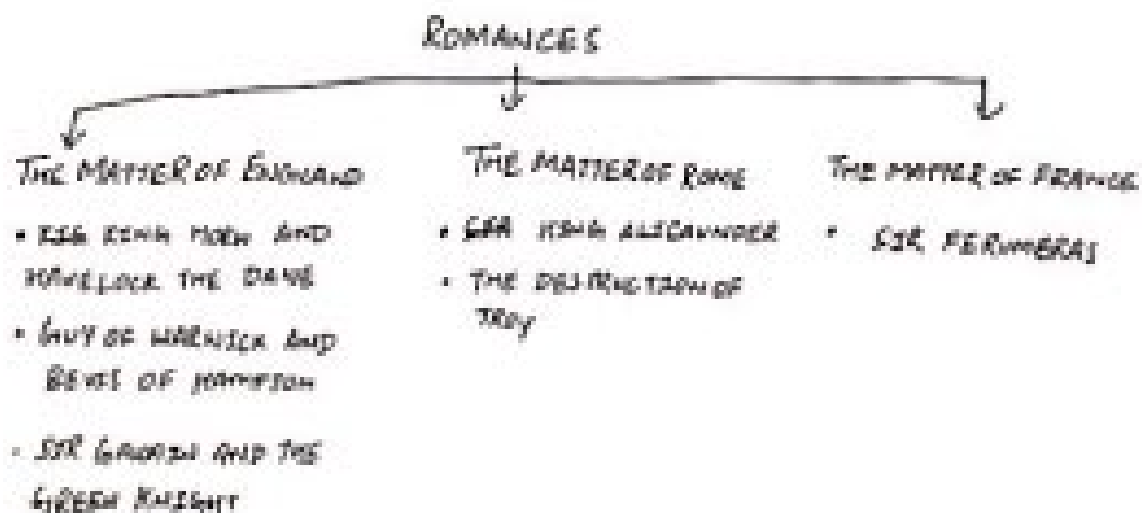
c) THE ORISON TO OUR LADY, GENESIS AND EXODUS, BESTIARY, MORAL DEC., PROVERBS OF ALFRED AND PROVERBS OF HENDYNG — written in between 12<sup>th</sup> - 13<sup>th</sup> C.

d) CURSOR MUNDI

e) PRICKER OF CONSCIENCE

f) PEARL, PURITY, PATIENCE AND SIR GAWAIN AND THE GREEN KNIGHT → WEST MIDLAND DIALECT AND ALLITERATIVE IN NATURE.

## iii) THE ROMANCES



## PROSE

1. THE ANDREWE RINLE
2. THE ASSEMBLY OF INWYT

## THE AGE OF CHAUCER

### THE HISTORICAL BACKGROUND (1350-1450)

#### HOUSE OF LANCASTER

This house descended from Edward III's third surviving son, John of Gaunt. Henry IV seized power from Richard II, a descendant of Edward III's second son.

37. HENRY IV — 1399 - 1413

HENRY OF BOLINGBROKE

38. HENRY V — 1413 - 1422

39. HENRY VI — 1422 - 1461

#### HOUSE OF YORK

The Wars of Roses (1455-1485) saw the throne pass back and forth between the rival houses of Lancaster and York.

40. EDWARD IV — 1461 - 1470

## LITERARY FEATURES OF THE AGE:

1. THE STANDARDIZING OF ENGLISH: The period of transition is now nearly over. The English language has shaken down to kind of average - to the standard of the East Midland speech, the language of the capital city and of the universities.
2. MODERN NOTE - There is a sharper spirit of criticism, a more searching interest in man's affairs, and a less childlike faith in the established order.
3. PROSE - This era sees the foundation of an English prose style. Earlier specimens have been experimental or purely imitative. Now, in the works of Mandeville - He and Malory, we have prose that is both original and individual. The English tongue is now ripe for a prose style. Latin and French are losing grip as popular prose mediums.

## GEOFFREY CHAUCER (1340-1400)

b. LONDON

He was the first poet to be buried in what is now known as Poet's Corner in Westminster Abbey.

### POEMS:

Chaucerian poems can be divided into three stages:

1. The French
2. The Italian
3. The English

### 1. THE FRENCH GROUP

#### a) THE ROMANCE OF THE ROSE:

- long poem in octosyllabic couplets
- based upon LE ROMANT DE LA ROSE of Guillaume de Lorris and Jean de Meung.

#### b) THE BOOK OF DUCHESSE (1369)

- written in 1369, when John of Gaunt's wife died

#### c) OTHERS: THE COMPLAINT UNTO PITY, AN A.B.C., AND THE COMPLAINT OF MARS



## 2. THE ITALIAN STAGE

1. ANELIDA AND ARCITE

2. THE PARLEMENT OF FOULES

3. TROILUS AND CRISEYDE → Rhyme royal stanza  
→ a long poem adapted from Boccaccio.  
→ It is held to be Chaucer's best narrative work.

4. THE HOUSE OF FAME → a poem in octosyllabic couplets, is of the dream-allegory type.

5. THE LEGEND OF GOOD WOMEN

→ The intention was to tell the tales of 19 accomplished women of antiquity; but he could only complete 8 and had started with 9 the 9th.

→ The poem is the first known attempt in English to use the heroic couplet.

## 3. THE ENGLISH STAGE

1. THE CANTERBURY TALES - The work of greatest accomplishment.

→ It is indebted to Boccaccio.

→ There are 24 PILGRIMS, including himself.

→ The pilgrims meet at the TABARD INN, in Southwark, in order to go on a pilgrimage to the tomb of Thomas à Becket at Canterbury.

→ At the suggestion of the host of the Tabard, each of the pilgrims is to tell two tales on the outward journey, and two on the return.

→ It happens that Chaucer finished only twenty, and left four partly complete.

→ There are two prose tales, Chaucer's own Tale of Melibee and The Parson's Tale, and nearly all the others are composed in a powerful and versatile decasyllabic or heroic couplet.

2. OTHER SHORT POEMS: ① THE LAK OF STEADFASTNESSE, ② COMPLAINT OF CHAUCER TO HIS EMPTY PURSE, ③ ORIGINES UPON THE MAUDELEYNE ④ THE FLOWER AND THE LEAF, ⑤ THE COURT OF LOVE

## CHAUCER'S METRICAL SKILL

- English literature poetical technique owes much to Chaucer.
- He virtually imported the decasyllabic line from France.
- The seven-lined stanza *ababbcc* has become known as the Chaucerian or *rhyme royal*.

## WILLIAM LANGLAND OR LANGLEY (1332 (?) - 1400(?))

### WORK :

1. THE VISION OF WILLIAM CONCERNING PIERS THE PLOUGHMAN, appears in its many manuscripts in three forms, called respectively the A, B, and C texts.
2. According to the latest theory TEXT A is considered to be the most genuine composition of Langland.
3. The vision, <sup>in which</sup> the poet saw, Piers the Ploughman probably took place in 1362.

4. The poem itself tells of the poet's vision on the Malvern Hills.
5. The motive of the work is to expose the sloth and vice of the Church, and to bring forth the suffer and struggles of common folk.
6. Style - It is a revival of Old English rhymed measure, having alliteration as the basis of the line.

JOHN GOWER

WORKS

1. SPECULUM MEDITANTIE - written in French
2. VOX CLAMANTIS - LATIN
3. CONFESSIO AMANTIS - ENGLISH, the meter is the octosyllabic couplet.

JOHN BARBOUR (1306-95)

→ He is the first Scottish poet of significance.

## WORK

1. BRUCE (1375), a lengthy poem of 20 books and 13,000 lines.

## PROSE WRITERS

### 1. SIR JOHN MANDEVILLE

→ He compiled and published a French book of travels between 1357 and 1371.

→ The real author is said to be Johan de Bourgogne, who died at Liege in 1372.

→ TRAVELS is a simple compilation of books on voyages including those of FRIAR ODORIC, ME TOUN AND MARCO POLO.

### 2. JOHN WYCLIFFE (1320-84)

→ He was against the abuse of the Church.

→ An English translation of the Bible has been popularly attributed to him.

### 3. SIR THOMAS MALORY

FAMOUS WORK : MORTE D'ARTHUR

William Caxton, the first printer of the book says that the book was written "oute of certyn booke of frensche".

# FROM CHAUCER TO SPENSER

1. The historical background  
( 1450-1550)
2. The period begins with wars, unrest, and almost chaos; it concludes with a settled dynasty, reformed religion, and a people united and progressive.
3. Abroad, as well as in England, there is a broad intellectual flood known as the Renaissance, running deep and strong.
4. **Literary features of the age:**
  1. The poverty of material, also known as the Barren Age
  2. The development of the drama
  3. Scottish poetry

chief poem associated with him is *The Kings Quair*.

2. It was written in captivity, and it records his first sight of the lady destined to be his wife: he was captured by the English in 1406, and remained in England till 1424, when he married Joan Beaufort, the cousin of Henry 5, and returned to Scotland.
3. It follows the Chaucerian model of the dream, the garden, and the introduction of allegorical figures.
4. The stanza is in Rhyme Royal.
5. It is certainly the best poem to have appeared in between the periods of Chaucer and



6. Other poems- Peblis to the Play and Christis kirk on the Greene.

2. **Sir David Lyndsey( 1490-1555)**

3. **Robert Henryson ( 1429-1508)**

4. **William Dunbar ( 1460-1530)**

1. He is generally considered to be the chief of Scottish Chaucerian poets.

2. His work runs mainly on Chaucerian line.

3. Famous work: The Dance of the Seven Deadly Sins.

5. **Gawain Douglas( 1474-1522)**

1. His most considerable effort is the careful translation of Virgil's Aeneid.

## 2. The English Poets:

1. **John Skeleton (1460-1529)**

1. A. He is perhaps the most considerable of the poets

2. B. Works: Dirge on Edward 4, The Bowge of Court, and a quite excellent morality- play, Magnificence.

**2. John Lydgate( 1370-1451)**

1. A. Works: The Falls of Princes, The Temple of Glass, Story Of Thebes, London Lickpenny

**3. Thomas Occleve  
( 1368-1450)**

1. A Works: The Regement of Princes, The Complainant of our Lady, and Occleve's Complaint.

**4. Stephen Hawes  
(1474-1530)**

1. A. Works: The Passetyme of Pleasure deals with man's life in this world in a fashion reminiscent of Bunyan's. It probably

influenced the allegory of Spenser.

## 5. **Alexander Barclay**

( 1475-1552) :

1. A. The Ship of Fools, a translation of a German work by Sebastian Brant, represents a newer type of allegory.
2. B. Certayne Ecloges, is the earliest English collection of pastorals.

## 6.THE PROSE WRITERS

### 1. **Reginald Peacock (1390-1461) :**

A. His two works were The Repressor of Overmuch Blaming of the Clergy( c.1445) and The Book of Faith.

B. In his dogma, he strongly supported the ancient usages of the Church.

C. His prose is marked by his preference for English words in place of that Latin origin.

D. His books are among the earliest of English controversial works, and thus they mark the victory over the once all-important Latin.

**2. William Caxton ( 1422-?91)**

1. A. The first English printer.
2. B. The first book printed in England was *The Dictes and Sayengis of the Philosophers*. (1477)

**3. John Fisher ( 1459-1535)**

1. A. During the time of the Reformation, he opposed Henry 8's desire to be acknowledged as the head of the English Church.

**4. Hugh Latimer (1485-1555)**

1. A. He was burnt at Oxford.
2. Latimer's English prose works

consist of two volumes of sermons published in 1549.

3. He is the first of the writers of plain style.

5. **Sir Thomas More( 1478-1535)**

1. His refusal to accept the Act of Supremacy led to his imprisonment (1534), and he was beheaded in the following year.

2. His Latin works are of unusual importance. They include his Utopia, the description of his imaginary ideal state.

# **The Development of the English Bible**

1. The work on the English Bible began as early as the eighth century when translated a portion of the Gospel of St. John into Old English prose.
2. The work was continued during the Old English period- for example, in the Lindisfarne Gospels and the prose of Aelfric.
3. During the Anglo-English translation did not flourish, but efforts were made especially in the Psalms and the Pauline epistles.
4. The translation was strongly stimulated by Wyclif (1320-84), under whose influence two complete versions were carried through about 1384 and 1388.
5. The greatest of all the translators was William Tyndale, who did much to give the Bible its modern shape.

6. At Cologne (1525) a fragment of his English New Testament was printed.
7. Miles Coverdale( 1488-1568) carried the work of Tyndale. An edition of his translation (1535) was the first complete English Bible to be printed.
8. In 1537 appeared the finely printed version of ' Thomas Matthew', who was said to be John Rogers, a friend of Coverdale, through it may be a pseudonym for Tyndale himself.
9. The Great Bible (1539), the first of the authorised versions, was executed by a commission of translators, working under the command of Henry 8. It was based on Matthew's Bible.
10. Another notable translation was the Calvinistic Geneva Bible ( 1560). This book received the popular name of ' Breeches Bible'.
11. In the reign of Elizabeth was issued the Bishop's Bible(1568), a

11. In the reign of Elizabeth was issued the Bishop's Bible(1568), a magnificent folio, which was translated by a committee of bishops and learned men.
12. With these developments, we are close upon the great Authorized Version (1611).



# The Development of Drama

1. The later Middle Ages bring a rapid growth in the native drama and set a stage for the great age of Elizabeth.
2. Popular mummings at great festivals, a crude survival of ancient pagan ritual, developed into a more elaborate amusement.
3. **The Miracle Play:** It is in the church and its liturgy that we find the stimulus which leads to the rebirth of drama.
  1. As early as the tenth century we hear of Easter representations of the empty tomb of Christ
  2. By the fourteenth century, we have the evolution of complete cycles of plays, covering the history of the world from the Creation to the Day of Judgement.

incorporate into the material from legend and the lives of saints.

4. It has long been the fashion to call the Biblical play ' mysteries 'and those dealing with saints' lives ' miracles'.
5. We hear of no play being called a ' mystery' in England before the eighteenth century, and it seems probable that out -of -door liturgical dramas in this country were known as ' miracles'.
6. Slowly, however, the vernacular crept in to usurp the place of the Latin, minor clerics and then laymen were introduced as actors.
7. By the Twelfth century the dramas, seem to have moved into the open, and the organization had begun to pass from ecclesiastical to lay hands.

8. The vernacular was now the usual medium, and the growing secularization of the drama is reflected in an edict of 1210 forbidding clergy to take part in the plays.
9. From the clergy, control passed first to the religious and social guilds, and then to the trade guilds.
10. The guilds became responsible for the productions. Each took on a separate episode from a cycle.
11. In London, about 1500, the plays, which were presented very elaborately, lasted from four to seven days.
12. Many texts, most of them very corrupt, are still preserved, among them three complete cycles - those of Chester, York, and Wakefield.
13. The Chester cycle( probably the

earliest of the three ) is of uncertain date, but was composed between 1350 and 1450.

14. A complete cycle from the Fall of Satan to the Day of Judgement, it is more truly religious than the other two.
15. The York Cycle contains forty-eight plays.
16. The Wakefield plays are notable for a very strong vein of realism which runs through many of them.
17. Examples- The Three Maries, Shepherds' Play.

4. **The Morality Play** - In such plays, virtues and vices were presented on the stage as allegorical creations, often of much liveliness. Abstractions such as Justice, Mercy, Gluttony, and Vice were among the commonest characters.

5. **The Interlude-** The last predecessor of the drama proper was the interlude, which flourished about the middle of the sixteenth century.

1. It had several distinguishing points: it was a short play that introduced real characters, usually of humble rank, such as citizens and friars; there was an absence of allegorical figures;
2. It is observed that the interlude was a great advance upon the morality - play.
3. **John Heywood**, who lived throughout much of the sixteenth century, was the most gifted writer of the interlude.
4. *The Four P's* is one of his best. It is composed in doggerel verse and describes a lying - match between a Pedlar, a Palmer, a Pardoner, and a Potheecary.
5. His *Johan Johan* has much sharp

5. His Johan Johan has much sharp  
with and many clever sayings.

# The Development of English Drama ( Part 2)

The earliest dramas began to appear about 1550. Their immediate cause was the renewed study of the classical drama , especially the plays of Seneca (3 B.C.- A.D. 65). The classical drama gave English drama it's five acts, its scenes and many other features.

1. **Tragedies:** The first tragedies had the Seneca style.

1. Gorboduc (1562), afterwards called Ferrex and Porrex, written by Sackville and Norton, was most probably the earliest, and was acted at the Christmas revels of the Inner Temple.

2. The metre was a regular blank verse.

2. **Histories:** Along with the alien classical tragedy arose a healthier native breed of historical plays.

1. These plays , the predecessors of the historical plays of Shakespeare, were dramatised forms of the early chronicles, and combined both tragic and comic element.
2. This union of tragedy and comedy was alien to the classical drama, and was the chief glory of the Elizabethan stage.
3. Early plays were : The Famous Victories of Henry the Fifth, The Troublesome Raigne of King John



1. *Ralph Roister Doister(1551)* by Nicholas Udal is the earliest comedy.
2. Another comedy was *Grammar Gurton's Needle ( 1575)*, the authorship of which is in dispute.

## SUBJECTIVE POETRY

1) The subject matter supplied by the poet's own thoughts and feelings is called subjective poetry.

2) The poet functions as an attached observer. He brings to bear his own judgement or reflection upon what he has seen or heard.

3) If the poet views the subject matter from the ~~interior~~ within and gives ~~heart~~ expression to his thoughts and feelings, his treatment is subjective.

4) Subjective poetry is personal.

## OBJECTIVE POETRY

The subject matter supplied by external objects, such as deeds, events, and the things we see around us gives rise to objective poetry.

5) The poet functions as a detached observer, describing what he has seen or heard.

6) If the poet views the subject matter from the outside and confines himself to the external facts, his treatment is objective.

7) Objective poetry is impersonal.

5) The subjective poetry is the product of civilization. 6) Objective poetry is older than subjective. The primitive people valued the experiences of their eye and ear more than the experience of their mind.

7) The lyric and the elegy, which belong to later times, represent the subjective poetry.

7. Example: "YOUTH AND AGE"  
by <sup>COLERIDGE</sup> William Shakespeare  
Coleridge's poem is deep and personal:

"When I was young? Ah,  
                    woful then,

Ah! for the change 'twixt  
                    Now and Then!"

8) The epic and the drama are two other forms of this objective poetry.

7. Example: "YOUTH AND AGE" by William Shakespeare  
Shakespeare's is objective making a plain statement:

"Youth is full of  
                    pleasure,  
Age is full of care."

# THE AGE OF ELIZABETH

## 1. THE HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

## 2. LITERARY FEATURES OF THE AGE

### 3. POETRY

3.1 EDMUND SPENCER (1562-99)

3.2 JOHN DONNE (1573-1631)

3.3 SIR THOMAS WYATT (1502-42)

3.4 HENRY HOWARD, EARL OF SURREY (1516-1547)

3.5 THOMAS SACKVILLE, EARL OF DORSET (1536-1608)

3.6 GEORGE GAS COIGNE (1525-77)

3.7 SIR PHILIP SIDNEY (1554-86)

3.8 MICHAEL DRAYTON (1568-1631)

3.9 THOMAS CAMPION (1567-1620)

3.10 PHINEAS FLETCHER (1582-1650)

3.11 SAMUEL DANIEL (1562-1619)

### 4. PRE-SHAKESPEAREAN DRAMA

#### 4.1 INFLUENCE OF GREECE

#### 4.2 THE UNIVERSITY WITS

4.2.1 GEORGE PEELE (1558-98)

4.2.2 ROBERT GREENE (1558-92)

4.2.3 THOMAS NASH (1558-1625) (1567-1601)

4.2.4 THOMAS LODGE (1558-94) (1558-1626)

4.2.5 THOMAS KYD (1558-94)

4.2.6 CHRISTOPHER MARLOWE (1564-93)

### 5. WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE (1564-1616)

#### 5.1 POEMS

#### 5.2 PLAYS

### 6. POST-SHAKESPEAREAN DRAMA

6.1 BEN JONSON (1573-1637)

6.2 FRANCIS BEAUMONT AND JOHN FLETCHER

6.3 GEORGE CHAPMAN (1559-1634)

6.4 JOHN MARSTON (1575-1634)

6.5 THOMAS DEKKER (1572-1632)

6.6 THOMAS MIDDLETON (1570-1627)

6.7 THOMAS HEYWOOD (1575-1650)

6.8 JOHN WEBSTER

6.9 CYRIL TOURNEUR (1575-1626)

7. PROSE

7.1 THE ENGLISH BIBLE (1611)

7.2 FRANCIS BACON (1561-1626)

7.2 ROWER ASHAM (1515-68)

7.4 JOHN LYLY (1554-1606)

7.5 RICHARD HOOKER (1534-1600)

7.6 SIR THOMAS OVERBURY (1581-1613)

7.7 ROBERT BURTON (1577-1640)

7.A THE SERMON WRITERS

7.A.1 JAMES USSHER (1581-1666)

7.A.2 JOSEPH HALL (1574-1633)

7.B 7.A.2 THE TRANSLATORS

7.C THE PAMPHLETEERS

# THE AGE OF ELIZABETH

## THE HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

The War of the Roses (1455-1485) saw the throne pass back and forth between the rival houses of Lancaster and York.

2ND TD

40. EDWARD IV - 1461 - 1470

41. HOUSE OF LANCASTER (RESTORED)

HENRY VI - 1470 - 1471

42. HOUSE OF YORK (RESTORED)

EDWARD IV - 1471 - 1483

43. EDWARD V - 1483 - 1483

44. RICHARD III - 1483 - 1485

## HOUSE OF TUDOR

→ The Tudors descended in the female line from John Beaufort, one of the illegitimate children of John of Gaunt (third surviving son of Edward III), by Gaunt's long-term mistress Katherine Swynford.

→ John Beaufort's granddaughter Lady Margaret Beaufort was married to Edmund Tudor.

→ Edmund Tudor's son became King as HENRY VII after defeating Richard III at the Battle of Bosworth Field in 1485, winning the Wars of the Roses.

→ King Henry married Elizabeth of York, daughter of Edward IV, thereby uniting the Lancastrian and York lineages.

45. HENRY VII - 1485 - 1509

46. HENRY VIII - 1509 - 1547

With Henry VIII's break from the Roman Catholic Church, the monarch became the Supreme Head of the Church of England and of the Church of Ireland.

47. EDWARD VI - 1547 - 1553

48. JANE - 10TH JULY 1553 - 19 JULY 1553  
(9 DAYS)

49. MARY I - 1553 - 1558

50. ELIZABETH I - 1558 - 1603

- Elizabeth I was the daughter of Henry VIII and Anne Boleyn.

- In the history of England, this is perhaps the most remarkable epoch for the expansion of both mental and geographic horizons.

- New knowledge was pouring in from the East, and new worlds were opening in the West.



## THE ELIZABETHAN PERIOD

### II. LITERARY FEATURES OF THE AGE

#### 1. THE NEW CLASSICISM

- By the time of Elizabeth the Renaissance had made itself strongly felt in England.
- In particular, there was an ardent renewal of the study of Greek and Latin.
- In all branches of literature Greek and Latin models began to press upon English.

#### 2. Abundance of Poetry

- The prodigal issue of the Elizabethan age is noticeable after the dearth of the 15th century.
- The historical situation encouraged a healthy production. Pamphlets and tracts were freely written. Literary questions became of national importance.

#### 3. THE NEW ROMANTICISM

- The Elizabethan age is the first and greatest romantic epoch.
- There was revolt against the past. There was a spirit of adventure in literary as well as in other regions. The romantic quest is for the pearls, the wonderful and the beautiful.

#### 4. THE DRAMA

- The bold and critical attitude of the time

was in keeping with the dramatic instinct, which is analytic and observant.

→ The drama had to surmount various obstacles. Sometimes, there were breaches or disturbances caused by the actors which led to the closing of theatres in 1589.

→ Also, a considerable amount of Puritanical opposition was declaring itself.

→ The most important anti-dramatic book of the day was Gosson's School of Abuse (1610), to which Sidney replied with his Apologie for Poetrie (1580).

## 5. POETRY

Though the poetical production was not quite equal to the dramatic, it was nevertheless of great and original beauty.

## 6. PROSE

For the first time prose rose to a position of first-rate importance.

# **POETICAL TYPES**

## **1. The Lyric**

1. Origin- The lyric, true to its Greek origin , has two characteristics: a) it is an expression of a single emotion , and b ) it is a musical composition.
2. The lyric appeals more to the heart than the intellect.
3. The Elizabethans, in particular, were past masters of the art of investing words with the highest musical quality. Their lyrics are unrivalled for their word-music.
4. Later, it was closely studied and developed by poets such as Keats, Shelley, Tennyson, and Swinburne.
5. The lyric is a subjective poem , expresses emotion and is intensely personal.

6. To sum up :

1. A lyric is a short poem dealing with a single emotion.
2. It is a musical poem, word-music being an important element.
3. It is a subjective poem, expressing varying moods of the author.

## JOHN DRYDEN (1631-1700)

1) Of Dryden it can be said without qualification that he is the representative of his age. Indeed it has been charged as a fault against his character that he adapted himself with too facile a conscience to the changing fortunes of the times.

### 2) POEMS

2) His first published poem of any consequence was a series of heroic stanzas on the death of the Protector Oliver Cromwell (1659).

2.2) It consists of 37 quatrains of no particular merit.

2.3) In 1660 he made a great step forward in poetical craftsmanship by publishing ASTREA REDUX, in celebration of Charles II's return.

It is written in <sup>the</sup> heroic couplet.

### ASTREA REDUX (1660)

- It is a royalist panegyric in which Dryden welcomes the new regime of King Charles II.

- It is a vivid emotional display that overshadows the cautious HEROIC STANZAS that Dryden composed for Oliver Cromwell's death.

- In the work, Dryden app. apologizes for his allegiance with the Cromwellian government, and Dryden was later excused by Samuel Johnson for his change in allegiance when he wrote, 'if he changed, he changed with the nation.'

- The period between Cromwell and the Restoration is illustrated as a time of chaos in *ASTREA*, and Charles is greeted as a restorer of peace.

- In the traditional form of the panegyric, Charles is praised for qualities which it is hoped he will attain as much as for those he already possesses, and Dryden recommends that Charles adopt a policy of toleration.

- As well as hinting that Dryden was looking for a royal patron, this poem is one which best demonstrates Dryden's lifelong commitment to peace and political stability.

- *Astrea Redux* is defined as 'the name given to an era which begins itself on the return of the reign of justice to the earth.'

ANNUS MIRABILIS

- Dryden's early political work concludes with *Annus Mirabilis* (1667), which gives a spirited account of the Great Fire and the war with the Dutch in the previous year.
- It commemorated 1665-1666 the "year of miracles" of London. Despite the poem's name the year had been one of great tragedy, including the Great Fire of London.
- The title was meant to suggest that the events of the year could have been worse. Dryden wrote that poem while at Charter in Wiltshire, where he went to escape one of the great events of the year: the Great Plague of London.
- The title of the poem derives its meaning from its Latin origins and describes a year of notable events.
- The first event of the miraculous year was the Battle of Lowestoft fought by English and Dutch ships in 1665. The second was the Four Days Battle of June 1666, and finally the victory of the St. James Bay Battle a month later.
- The second part of the poem deals with the Great Fire of London that ran from September 2-7, 1666. The miracle of the fire was

that London was saved, that the fire was stopped, and that the great King (Charles II) would rebuild.

- Dryden's view is that these disasters were all averted, that God had saved England from destruction, and that God had performed miracles for England.

- The poem contains 1216 lines of verse, arranged in 304 quatrains. Each line consists of 10 syllables, and each quatrain follows an ABAB rhyme scheme, a pattern referred to as a decasyllabic decasyllabic quatrains.

- Rather than write in the heroic couplets found in his earlier works, Dryden used the decasyllabic quatrain. Exemplified in Sir John Davies' poem *NOSCE TEPSUM* in 1599. The style was revived by William Barentine in his poem *GONDIBERT*, which was published in 1651 and influenced Dryden's composition of *ANNUS MIRABILIS*.

## ABSALOM AND ACHITOPHEL

Political passions over the Exclusion Bills were at their height and Dryden appeared as the chief literary champion of monarchy in the famous satirical



## allegory ABSALOM AND ACHITOPHEL (1681)

- It is written in heroic couplets. The poem tells the Biblical tale of the rebellion of Absalom against King David, but this tale is an allegory used to represent a story contemporary to Dryden, a story of King Charles II and the Exclusion Crisis (1679-1681). The poem also references the Popish Plot (1678) and the Monmouth Rebellion (1685).
- On the title page, Dryden himself describes it simply as a "poem".
- In the prologue, "To the Reader", Dryden states that "the true end of satire is the amendment of vices by correction".
- The story of Absalom's rebellion against his father, King David, is told in the Old Testament of the Bible, in the second Book of Samuel (chapters 14 to 18).
- A second allusion in the poem beginning on line 425, is the Parable of the Prodigal Son, which can be found in the New Testament in the Gospel of Luke, chapter 15, verses 11-32.
- 1) CHARLES II - King David  
James Scott, the Duke of Monmouth - Absalom
- 2) Earl of Shaftesbury - Achitophel
- 3) Buckingham - Timon

- v) Thomas Shadwell - Og
- vi) Elkanah Settle - Dog

- Dryden's friend Nahum Tate wrote a second part, publishing it the following year, 1682.

## THE METAL (1681)

- It is a political poem by John Dryden
- In 1681, a grand jury was convened in Middlesex to consider a bill of charges filed against the Earl of Shaftesbury on the grounds of having committed high treason. The grand jury ultimately dismissed all charges of treason levelled at the Earl and in celebration of their political victory, the Whigs commemorated the event by striking a medal with the legend of Latimer emblazoned upon it. So outraged was Dryden by the actions of the grand jury and the response of those supporting the Earl that he was moved once again to attack the poem 'The Medal' therefore becomes a polemic of that casts a dark eye upon the jurors.
- Of the replies to 'The Medal' the most famous are almost certainly

The Medal of John Bayes' by Thomas "Chadwell and Samuel Roddy Pordage's The Medal Reversed."

MAC FLECKNOE (~~1681~~ 1682) [Written about 1678, not published until 1682]

Shadwell's satirist hit a particularly sensitive nerve within Dryden and was largely responsible for MAC FLECKNOE: A SATIRE UPON THE TRUE-BLUE PROTESTANT POET TS.

It is a mock-heroic satire.

RELIGIO LAICI (1682)

Religio laici, Or A Layman's Faith (1682) is a poem by John Dryden, published as a preface to his subsequent THE HIND AND THE PANTHER (1687), a final outcome of his conversion to Roman Catholicism.

The poet argues for the credibility of the Christian religion and against Deism, and for the Anglican Church against that of Rome.

A new poetical development was manifest in RELIGIO LAICI (1682) and THE HIND AND THE PANTHER (1687).

The first poem is in defence of the English Church; and the second, written after the accession of

1) ABSALOM AND ACHITOPHEL 4) RICHARD STEELE

2) JOSEPH ADDISON

3) JOSEPH

## Absalom and Achitophel

Absalom and Achitophel  
by Joseph Addison  
first published  
in 1705 in the Spectator  
the Spectator (1705) and in

### Satire (add)

Absalom and Achitophel is "a  
language" in it is also described  
as a heroic narrative. On the other p.

in the prologue: "To the Reader  
I send by correction" He also a  
warning to those who were used  
where justice would allow it, by

Absalom and Achitophel has in  
fact when Dryden wrote an  
and (Joseph Addison himself is  
not important) describing the  
regime and progress of "Satan's  
Party" to its last poisoning an

essay in the dissertation on  
the art of writing a series of action, events  
and all things beside  
rehearsed, partly dramatically  
and partly as a series of speeches, but partly as  
a series of indignation is moved

in the essay. In the  
of Absalom and Achitophel

and most delicate touch  
and that witty" But in  
using any of those oppor-  
tunities with the whole poem. It  
was too witty to resist  
of Horace and of your Lo

al background of

of Absalom's rebellion as  
the Second Book of Sam-  
son's abundant hair, a  
famous advisor. Achitophel  
who plots with David's  
sons. The result is that Achitophel  
Achitophel is killed (a  
revelation of a great g

James, is an allegorical defence of the  
Roman Catholic faith.

- It is written in heroic couplets. It is  
a religious poem with the best fable.

- The King and the Panther falls into  
three parts: the first is a description  
of the different religious denominations,  
in which the Roman Catholic Church  
appears as "A milk-white Hind", James  
is "unaltered and unchanged", the Church  
of England as a "Pheasant", the Independents  
as "bees", the Presbyterians as a  
wolf, the Quakers as a hare, the  
Seventeenth as a fox, the Puritans as an  
ape, and the Anabaptists as a bear.

The second part deals with the  
controversial topics of church authority  
and the third part argues that the Crown and  
the Anglican and Catholic Churches should  
form a united front against the  
Nonconformist churches and the  
Whigs.

## DRYDEN'S LYRICAL POETRY

a) Song for St. Cecilia's Day (1687)

It is a celebration of music, the titular  
saint Cecilia being the patron  
saint of music and musicians, and

is formatted with the structure of an ode.

Throughout the poem, Dryden suggests that music is an apt way to express religiosity and worship, despite the fact that he was raised in a Puritan tradition which usually abstains from music. As can be seen with much of his work, the poem is religious in tone, and speaks to "the Creator's praise."

### 6) Alexander's Feast (1697)

Alexander's Feast, or the Power of Music (1697) is an ode by John Dryden. It was written to celebrate Saint Cecilia's Day. Jeremiah Clarke set the original ode to music, however the score is now lost.

The main body of the poem describes the feast given by Alexander the Great at the Persian capital Persepolis, after his defeat of Darius. Alexander's bard Timotheus sings praises of him.

# ANTHONY BURGESS

1. 1917-1993

2. He is also known as Joseph Kell (*used in the work 'ONE HAND CLAPPING AND INSIDE MR. ENEMY'*)

3. Works:

a) Mr. James Embury: An Introduction to James Joyce

b) Malayan Trilogy (1956-1959)

- Wrote when working for Malaya.

- Based on his experience

- 1. Time for a Tiger

2. Enemy in the Blanket

REDS ← 3. Reds in the East.

The Malayan Trilogy was later published as one volume known as 'THE LONG DAY WANES'

b.1) TIME FOR A TIGER

1) The first part of the trilogy.

2) It is dedicated in Jawi script on the first page of the book, 'to all my Malayan friends'

CHARACTER

The Trilogy has the fourth addition of *crisis novels called*

VICTOR CRABBE - CENTRAL FIGURE

DEVIL OF A STATE  
1951 (published)

His physical demise symbolises the demise of the British Empire in Malaya.

c) CLOCKWORK ORANGE (1962)

1. Dystopia

2. written under Russian influence

3. Narrative the story of teenage ALEX.

4. black comedy

5. The parts of the novel:

i) ALEX'S WORLD

ii) THE LUDOVICO TECHNIQUE

iii) AFTER PRISON

each with 7 chapters

$7 \times 3 = 21 \rightarrow$  recognised as a milestone in human maturation

d) NOTHING LIKE THE SUN: A STORY OF SHAKESPEARE'S LOVE LIFE (1964)

1) fictional biography of Shakespeare with LUCY NEIRO, a notorious Elizabethan prostitute

e) MAN OF NAZARETH (1979)

1) historic novel with a biblical theme

2) It is one of the three books, other being THE KINGDOM OF THE WICKED AND MOSES.

f) EARTHLY POWERS (1980)

1) panoramic saga of the 20th C. <sup>KENNETH</sup> TOOMEY

2) 81 year old hero, Kenneth Toomey, loosely based on W. Somerset Maugham.

3) The central figure, tells his story in 82 chapters

4) Nominated for Booker Prize, lost to Golding's Rites of Passage.

g) A DEAD MAN IN DEPT FORD (1993)

1) depicts the life of Christopher Marlowe.

July 2018 question was asked

k) ABBA ABBA (1977)

The theme is the last months in the life of John Keats.

l) 1985 (1978)

It was intended as a tribute to George Orwell's novel 1984.

j) ~~ANY IRON~~ ANY OLD IRON (1989)

fantasy novel; revolves around the modern update of the evolution.

- Winston Churchill, Stalin, among others, are fictionalised in the novel.

k) Mozart and the Wolf Gang (1991)

based on the works of WOLFGANG AMADEUS MOZART.

l) BYRNE: A NOVEL (1995)

- last novel
- written in Ottawa Lima that Byron was in Don Juan.
- depicts war between England's Royal Navy and the Spanish Armada in the 16th C.

m) THE WORM AND THE RING (1961)

- burger's version of the Ring Cycle.

WHAT IS RING CYCLE?

It is a cycle of four German-language epic music dramas composed by Richard Wagner.



12) THE WANTING SEED (1962)

- dystopia. It addresses overpopulation

13) ENDERBY QUATRET (1963 - 1984)

- i) Inside Mr. Enderby (1963)
- ii) Enderby Outside (1968)
- iii) The Clockwork Testament or Enderby's World (79)
- iv) Enderby's Lost Lady or No End of Enderby (1984)

14) THE EVE OF SAINT VENUS (1969)

- The theme of the novel is marriage.
- The new edition was dedicated to the Prince and Princess of Wales, published in 1981.

15) A VISION OF BATTLEMENTS (1965)

- based on his experiences during the World War II in Gibraltar.

16) TREMOR OF INTENT: AN ESCHATOLOGICAL SPY NOVEL (1966)

- It is an English espionage novel.

17) M/F (1971)

- inspiration was 'The Scope of Anthropology' by Claude Lévi-Strauss.

18) NAPOLEAN SYMPHONY: A NOVEL IN FOUR MOVEMENTS

- fictional recreation of Napoleon Bonaparte, first published in 1974.

19) THE RAIN PIANO PLAYERS (1986)

- draws heavily on his memories of his father, a pub piano-player.

## AMERICAN RENAISSANCE

1. The American Renaissance period in American literature ran from about 1830 to around the Civil War.
2. A central term in American studies, the American Renaissance was for a while considered synonymous with American Romanticism and was closely associated with Transcendentalism.
3. Scholar F. O. Matthiessen originated the phrase 'American Renaissance' in his 1941 book American Renaissance: Art and Expression in the Age of Emerson and Whitman.

### 4. NOTABLE AUTHORS

1. Ralph Waldo Emerson's
  1. 'Representative Man'
  2. Self-Reliance
2. Nathaniel Hawthorne
  1. The Scarlet Letter
  2. The House of Seven Gables
3. Herman Melville
  1. Moby Dick
4. Henry David Thoreau
  1. Walden
5. Walt Whitman's
  1. Leaves of Grass