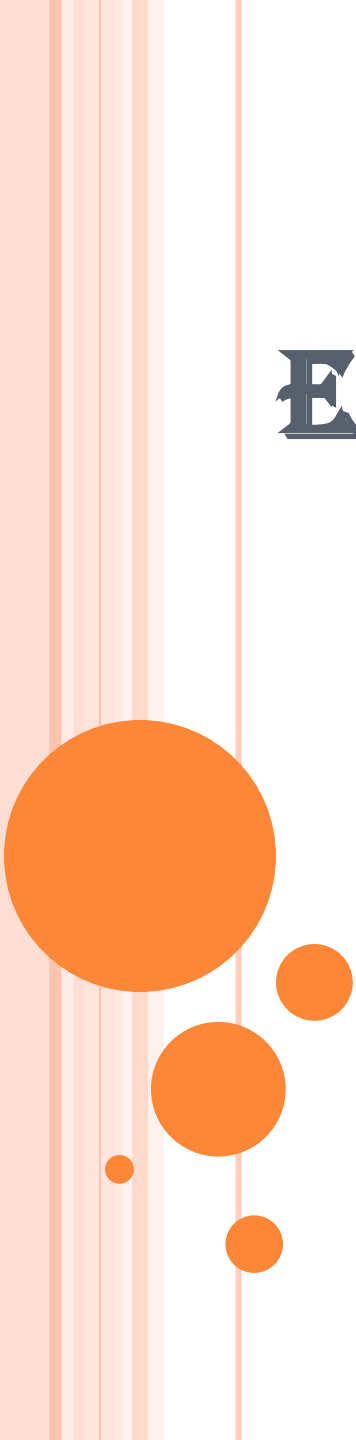


ENGLISH LITERATURE AND ITS PERIODS

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ENGLISH LITERATURE



English literature is the literature which is distinctly written in the English language, as opposed to differing languages. English literature includes literature composed in English by writers not necessarily from England nor primarily English-speaking nations. Until the early 19th century, this article deals with literature from Britain written in English; then America starts to produce major writers and works in literature. In the 20th century America and Ireland produced many of the most significant works of literature in English, and after World War II writers from the former British Empire also began to challenge writers from Britain.

PERIODS OF ENGLISH LITERATURE

- Periodization depends on
 - Political Age/ Monarchs/ Rulers
 - Literary Movements
 - Social and Cultural Ethos
 - Linguistic Developments



THE ANGLO-SAXONS

“Anglo-Saxon” is the term applied to the English speaking inhabitants of Britain from around the middle of the fifth century until the time of the Norman Conquest, when the Anglo-Saxon line of English kings came to an end.



- The Anglo-Saxons
- Bede tells us that the Anglo-Saxons came from Germania.
- The languages spoken by the inhabitants of Germania were a branch of the Indo-European family of languages, which linguists believe developed from a single language spoken some five thousand years ago in an area that has never been identified—perhaps, some say, the Caucasus.



- Old English dialects: The language spoken by the Anglo-Saxons at the time of their migration to Britain was probably more or less uniform. Over time, however, Old English developed into four major dialects:
 1. Northumbrian, spoken north of the river Humber
 2. Mercian, spoken in the midlands
 3. Kentish, spoken in Kent (in the far southeastern part of the island);
 4. West Saxon, spoken in the southwest.



- Old English literature, or Anglo Saxon literature, encompasses literature written in Old English in Anglo-Saxon England, in the period after the settlement of the Saxons and other Germanic tribes in England after the withdrawal of the Romans and "ending soon after the Norman Conquest" in 1066.



- The Anglo-Saxon influenced English Literature when they brought with them a rich tradition of oral literature steeped in their customs, pagan beliefs and rituals.
- The lyric and epic poetry they wrote told of the hardships of survival and the importance of courage in performing heroic deeds. It dignified the difficulties and dangers faced by the warriors before they succeeded in their heroic feats.



SOME SIGNIFICANT LITERARY WORK IN THIS PERIOD:

- Ecclesiastical History of the English People and Caedmon Hymn by Bede
- Anglo-Saxon Chronicle by Alfred the Great
- The Wonderer
- Deor's Lament
- A Dream of the Rood
- The Battle of Maldon
- Beowulf (Lone Surviving Epic of English Literature)



THE SIGNIFICANT LITERARY GENRES WERE

- Chronicle
- Formulaic Poetry
- Epic Poem (Tribal Scop)
- Some significant literary work in this period are came from ANONYMOUS WRITERS



THE MEDIEVAL PERIOD (1066 B.C.-1485 A.D.)



THE MEDIEVAL PERIOD

(1066 B.C.-1485 A.D.)

Celtic fancy, Anglo-Saxon solidity, and Norman vivacity-these were the original ingredients of English life and letters. The third of these was brought into England from northern France by William the Conqueror and his Norman knights and churchmen. Castles and feudalism, joust and duels, cathedral and monasteries, chivalry and adventure were the contributions of these aristocratic newcomers.



Middle English lasts up until the 1470s, when the Chancery Standard, a form of London based English, became widespread and the printing press regularized the language. The prolific Geoffrey Chaucer, whose works were written in Chancery Standard, was the first poet to have been buried in Poet's Corner of Westminster Abbey. Among his many works, which include The Book of the Duchess, the House of Fame, the Legend of Good Women and Troilus and Criseyde, Chaucer is best known today for The Canterbury Tales



SOME SIGNIFICANT LITERARY WORKS OF THIS PERIOD

1. Sir Gawain and the Green Knight
2. Morte D'Arthur by Sir Thomas Malory
3. The Vision of the Piers Plowman by William Langland
4. The Owl and the Nightingale
5. Canterbury Tales by Geoffrey Chaucer



THE SIGNIFICANT LITERARY GENRES

- 1. Elegy
- 2. Religious Liturgy
- 3. Narrative Romance
- 4. Lay or Lais
- 5. Arthurian Romance
- 6. Fabliau



GEOFFREY CHAUCER (1343-1400)

- Geoffrey Chaucer
- Outstanding in English Poet before William Shakespeare whose Canterbury Tales ranks as one of the greatest poetic works in English.
- Born in the middle class family. He was said to be fluent in French, Latin and Italian.
- His first important poem The Book of Duchess a dream vision of elegy for Blanche, Duchess of Lancaster who died for a plague.



- The Canterbury Tales,
- Troilus and Criseyde
- Book of the Duchess.
- Other Major Poems
- The House of Fame
- The Parliament of Fowles
- The Legend of Good
- Women Prose
- Treatises
- Treatise on the astrolabe
- Short Poems
- The Complaint of Chaucer to His Purse
- Truth
- Gentilesse
- Merciles Beaute
- Lak of Stedfastnesse
- Against Women Unconstant.



English Renaissance or The Elizabethan Period (1485-1625)



THE ELIZABETHAN PERIOD (1485-1625)

- The most splendid in the history of English literature. Literary works were characterized by immense vitality and richness.
- The flowering of poetry and the golden age of drama. The most noted poet of the period was William Shakespeare.



THE ELIZABETHAN PERIOD (1485-1625)

- Queen Elizabeth the most regal monarch at the age of monarchy was the key figure in influencing the life of her constituents. She was a great advocate of peace and order.
- The high age of aristocracy.
- The golden age of English literature.



SIGNIFICANT DATES

- 1492 – The discovery of America; an opening of entirely new world.
- 1534 – The Act of Supremacy; the sundering of the English Church from Rome
- 1558 – The accession of Elizabeth I; the beginning of an age of comparative toleration.



GRADUAL APPEARANCE OF SEVERAL LITERARY FEATURES

- There was an increase in the number of translation. Such as the North's translation of Plutarch's Lives (1579); Phaers (Virgil 1588); Golding's Bird (1565) and Chapman's Homer (1595). These translation opened out new realms of wonder and romance and provided models for the creative writing of Englishmen.



- A lyrical impulse, strong and sweet, began to pervade English literature. Most of the greater poets contributed to poetry of time.
- The drama assumed a commanding position in the writing of the day. William Shakespeare rose to fame and honor.
- The technique of poetry—the skill in the management of meter shows great advancement.
- The rise of prose writing. There was a vast increase of body of travel literature. There was even an approach to prose fiction.



SOME SIGNIFICANT LITERARY WORKS IN THIS PERIOD

- Faerie Queene, Shepher's Calendar by Edmund Spenser
- Laws of Ecclesiastical Polity by Richard Hooker
- Book of Martyrs by John Foxe
- Musophilus by Samuel Daniel
- The Nymph's Replied to the Shepherd by Sir Walter Raleigh
- William Shakespeare Works



WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE

- Born: Baptised 26 April 1564 (birth date unknown) Stratford-upon Avon, Warwickshire, England
- Died: 23 April 1616 (aged 52) Stratford-upon Avon, Warwickshire, England
- Occupation; Playwright, poet, actor



SIGNIFICANT LITERARY GENRE

- 1. Sonnet
- 2. Elizabethan Lyric
- 3. Elizabethan Drama
- 4. Historical Poems
- 5. Pastoral Romance



THE 17TH CENTURY OR THE PURITAN PERIOD (1625-1700)



- Catastrophe struck Britain.
- The Civil War, the Black Plague and the great fire of London disrupted the otherwise orderly existence of the English people.
- Literature was permeated by the light hearted cavalier of the solemn Puritans.
- The Period of Dissension and Calamity



SIGNIFICANT LITERARY WORKS DURING THIS PERIOD

- 1. Areopagitica by John Milton
- 2. Devotions by John Donne
- 3. Religio Medici by Thomas Brown
- 4. History of Henry VII by Francis Bacon
- 5. Works by Ben Jonson
- 6. The garden by Andrew Marvell



SIGNIFICANT LITERARY GENRE:

- 1. Restoration Comedy and Tragedy
- 2. Metaphysical Poetry
- 3. False Pindaric or Irregular Ode
- 4. Light Prose



THE 18TH CENTURY OR THE PERIOD OF CLASSISM (1700-1800)



THE 18TH CENTURY OR THE PERIOD OF CLASSISM (1700-1800)

- Dawning of the age of reason
- The London become the center of the bustling city life.
- Literary mastered have their crafts and have written with sophistication and finesse.
- Prose writing become popular.
- The periodical and novel gained popularity and public acceptance.
- The periodical became the origin of what we call now as clarity and public acceptance.



SIGNIFICANT LITERARY WORKS DURING THIS PERIOD

- 1. The London Merchant by George Lillo
- 2. Conscious Lovers by Richard Steels
- 3. The Fair Penitent: The Tragedy of Jane Shore:
The tragedy of Lady Grey by Nicholas Rowe
- 4. The Distressed Mother by Ambrose Philip
- 5. Cato by Joseph Addison
- 6. The West Indian by Richard Cumberland
- 7. The Stoops to Conquer by Oliver Goldsmith 8.
The Rivals: School for Scandals by Richard Sheridan



SIGNIFICANT LITERARY GENRE

- Opera
- Ballad Opera
- Pantomime
- Prose Tragedy



THE ROMANTIC PERIOD (1800-1837)



THE ROMANTIC PERIOD (1800-1837)

- The Golden age of the lyric poetry belongs to the youth.
- A literature of vigor and courage, love and wisdom, despair and hope.
- Romantic poets pointed to the wild, unfathomable beauties of nature, the elusive, supernatural vision of mystics and the mysterious atmosphere of religion that had east such celestial light about the middle ages.



THE ROMANTIC PERIOD (1800-1837)

- Queen Victoria came to the throne, this romantic fever had somewhat burned itself out.
- Men had turned their attention to the far reaching implications of the industrial revolution which was at last transforming the entire surface and structure of England.



SIGNIFICANT LITERARY WORKS DURING THIS PERIOD

- Society: Castle by Thomas W. Robertson
- Widowers' Houses by George Bernard Shaw
- Lady Windermere's Fan by Oscar Wilde
- The Second Mrs. Tanqueray by Arthur Wind Pinero
- Song of Innocence and of Experience by William Blake
- Lyrical Ballads by William Wordsworth and Samuel Taylor Coleridge



SIGNIFICANT LITERARY WORKS DURING THIS PERIOD

- Prometheus Unbound by Percy Bysshe Shelley
- To Psyche; On a Grecian Ura; To a Nightingale by John Keats
- Childe Harold; Don Juan by Lord Byron
- Sense and the Sensibility; Pride and Prejudice; Mansfield Park; Persuasion by Jane Austen



SIGNIFICANT LITERARY GENRE:

- Heroic Couplet
- Historical Novel



THE VICTORIAN PERIOD (1837-1900)



THE VICTORIAN PERIOD (1837-1900)

- Victoria I became a Queen of England in 1817, 3 years after the death of Coleridge and thirteen years before the death of Wordsworth.
- She reigned until her own death in 1901.
- The reign in England of comparable length is that of Elizabeth I (1558-1603) and like Elizabeth Victoria had not only a political but a literary epoch named for her.



THE VICTORIAN PERIOD (1837-1900)

- The keynote of the age was the 1851 Great Exhibition to London, a triumphant display intended to illustrate the superiority of England's scientific, social and technological achievements.



SIGNIFICANT LITERARY WORKS DURING THIS PERIOD

- The Pickwick Papers; Oliver Twist: David Copperfield: A Tale of Two Cities: Great Expectations by Charles Dickens
- Vanity Fair by William Makepeace Thackeray
- Pilgrim's Progress by John Bunyan
- The Last Chronicle of Barset; Barchester Towers; The Warden by Anthony Trollope
- Wuthering Heights by Emily Bronte



SIGNIFICANT LITERARY WORKS DURING THIS PERIOD

- Agnes Grey by Anne Bronte
- Jane Eyre by Charlotte Bronte
- Silas Marner; Scenes of Clerical Life; The Mill on the Floss Middlemarch by George Elliot
- The Lotos Eater; Ulysses; Lockley Hall; Idylle of the Kings; In Memoriam by Alfred Lord
- The Cry of the Children by Elizabeth Barrett Browning



SIGNIFICANT LITERARY WORKS DURING THIS PERIOD

- The Bishop Orders His Tome at St. Fraxed's Church; The Ring and the Book by Robert Browning
- Culture and Anarchy by Matthw Arnold
- Confession of an English Opium-Eater; On Knocking in the Gate of Macbeth by Thomas DeQuincy
- History of England by Thomas Babington Macaulay



SIGNIFICANT LITERARY WORKS DURING THIS PERIOD

- Sartor Resartus; The French Revolution; Heroes and Hero-Worship; Past and Present by Thomas Carlyle
- The Stones of Venice by John Ruskin
- The Development of Christian Doctrine; The Idea of a University; Grammar Assent by John Henry Newman
- On Liberty; The Subjection of Women by John Stuart Mill



SIGNIFICANT LITERARY GENRE

- Novels
- Magazine Serial
- Dramatic Dialogue



THE 20TH CENTURY OR THE MODERN PERIOD (1900 UP TO PRESENT)



THE 20TH CENTURY OR THE MODERN PERIOD (1900 UP TO PRESENT)

- Literature of this periods exemplifies the improved crafts of masters. The novel has flourished and writers have risen not only to popularity but to distinction as well.
- The emerging values of the modern times are embodied in the works of authors who defy the conventions of the old world.



THE 20TH CENTURY OR THE MODERN PERIOD (1900 UP TO PRESENT)

- Science and technology became the basis for advancement. While Orthodox beliefs are considered standard criteria for excellence, the emerging needs for radical changes became the order of the day.



SIGNIFICANT LITERARY WORKS OF THIS PERIOD

- Jude, the Obscure; Far From Madding crowd; The Dynasts; The Return of Native by Thomas Hardy
- The Tower; The Winding Stair by W.B. Yeats
- The Lyrical Ballads by William Wordsworth and Samuel Taylor Coleridge
- The Almayer's Folly; The Nigger of the "Narcissus" by Joseph Conrad



SIGNIFICANT LITERARY WORKS OF THIS PERIOD

- Howard End; A Passage to India by E.M. Foster
- The Voyage Out; Night and Day; Mrs. Dalloway; To the Lighthouse by Virginia Woolf
- A Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man by James Joyce
- Sons and Lovers; The Rainbow; Lady Chatterley's Lover by D. H. Lawrence



SIGNIFICANT LITERARY WORKS OF THIS PERIOD

- Modern Comedy; Swan Song; The Man of Property
- The White Monkey; The Silver Spoon by John Galsworthy
- The Egoist; Beauchamp's Career by George Meredith
- Captain Courageous; Jungle Book by Rudyard Kipling



SIGNIFICANT LITERARY GENRE:

- Novel
- Blank Verse

