

# British Literature Medieval Period (1066-1485)

## Honors English IV

### Essential Questions

- How did the English language evolve from the Anglo-Saxon period through the Middle Ages?
- What literary characteristics set the medieval period apart from other literary ages?
- What political, cultural, and technological events affected the language and literature of the medieval period?
- (Medieval → Renaissance) How does British literature reflect the changing relationship between the church and state that existed during the Medieval Period through the Renaissance?

### Literary Terms

Allegory

Ballad

Characterization

- Direct
- Indirect

Didactic

Exemplum

Foreshadowing

Irony

Miracle, Mystery, & Morality plays

Rhythm (foot and meter)

Rhyme

Romance

Scansion

Stanzas (and stanza divisions)

Rhyme Royal

### Major Literary Works

#### Ballads

- "Sir Patrick Spens"
- "Get Up and Bar the Door"
- "Lord Randall"
- "Edward, Edward"
- "The Twa Corbies"
- "Barbara Allen"

#### Geoffrey Chaucer—*The Canterbury Tales*

- "The Prologue"

- "The Nun's Priest's Tale"
- "The Wife of Bath's Tale"
- from "The Pardoner's Tale"

#### Romances

- "Sir Gawain and the Green Knight"
- *Morte d'Arthur*, Sir Thomas Mallory
- *Excalibur*

#### Morality Play: *Everyman*

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**Intro. Notes:** Read pages 69-79 on England's Medieval Period and take notes on the following subjects:

#### ELP (Economic, Legal, Political systems)

Results of the Norman Conquest

Language

Lands

Feudalism

Land ownership

"Food chain" (hierarchies)

The Plantagenets (identify all rulers)

Thomas a Becket

Magna Carta

The Crusades

Craft guilds

Merchant guilds

Black Death

John Wycliffe

House of Lancaster (identify all rulers)

House of York (identify all rulers)

War of the Roses

Henry Tudor

French influence on English language

Geoffrey of Monmouth

Arthurian legend

#### Language and Culture

Universities and education

Latin

Norman French

Middle English

Johann Gutenberg

William Caxton

#### Poetry

William Langland

Geoffrey Chaucer

Secular

Religious

Lyric

Ballad

#### Language and Literature

Chivalry

Romance

Troubadours

#### Drama

The church and the theater

Morality plays

*Everyman*



**History Notes** (from pages 74-88 in purple text) Identify the following names/items and the significance of each:

The Battle of Hastings  
William the Conqueror  
King Harold  
Edward the Confessor  
Results of Norman Conquest  
French influence on English language  
Languages: Latin, Norman French, Middle English  
Domesday Book  
Feudalism  
Knights and armor (see also green box)  
Women's rights and roles  
Code of chivalry & Courtly love  
The Romance  
Minstrels  
City classes  
Merchant class  
Ballads  
Mystery, miracle, (and morality) plays  
Craft and Merchant Guilds  
The Crusades (and effects)  
Thomas a'Becket, Canterbury, & Henry II  
Medieval church  
Magna Carta

The Hundred Years' War  
Yeoman class and the long bow  
The Black Death & its effects

**Additional Research:**

The Plantagenets (which monarchs?)  
Henry III  
Edward I  
The House of Lancaster (which monarchs?)  
The House of York (which monarchs?)  
The War of the Roses (1453-1485)

- Henry VI
- Richard of York
- Edward IV
- Edward V (and brother)
- Richard III (Richard of Gloucester)
- Tower of London
- Henry Tudor
- Elizabeth of York

Universities of Oxford and Cambridge  
John Wycliffe  
Johann Gutenberg  
William Caxton