Contents

Preface			
PART I DESCRIPTION			
1	Introduction	3	
1.1	About this book	4	
1.2	English and its origins	5	
1.3	External history	7	
1.4	Internal history	10	
1.5	Introducing English historical linguistics	14	
1.6	A preliminary illustration	15	
2	Describing language	17	
2.1	Introduction	18	
2.2	The levels of language	19	
2.3	Speech and writing	20	
2.4	Phonetics and phonology	20	
2.5	Grammar and lexicon	28	
3	Old English	45	
3.1	Introduction	46	
3.2	Snelling and pronunciation	47	

3.3	Syntax	50
3.4	Paradigms	66
3.5	Lexicon	83
3.6	Appendix I: From Early to Late West Saxon	85
3.7	Appendix II: On OE dialects	87
4	Middle English	89
4.1	Introduction	90
4.2	Spelling and pronunciation	92
4.3	Syntax	96
4.4	Paradigms	108
4.5	Lexicon	116
4.6	Appendix: On ME dialects	118
5	Early Modern English	123
5.1	Introduction	124
5.2	Spelling and pronunciation	125
5.3	Syntax	131
5.4	Paradigms	141
5.5	Lexicon	148
5.6	Appendix: Evidence for EModE dialects	150
PAR	RT II ILLUSTRATIVE TEXTS	153
Sec	tion A Old English Texts	155
(1)	The Man Who Built His House on Sand	156
(2)	Abraham and Isaac	157
(3)	Saston Chronicle	158
(4)	Daniel	159
	Cædmon's Hymn	160
(6)	= · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	160
(7)	From Ælfric's Life of King Oswald	163
(8)	From Beowulf	165
(9)	From Beowulf	168

Sec	Section B Middle English Texts	
(1)	From The General Prologue to the Canterbury Tales	170
(2)	From The Pardoner's Tale	172
(3)	From The Parson's Tale	176
(4)	From The Peterborough Chronicle	178
(5)	From Sir Orfeo	180
(6)	From Sir Gawain and the Green Knight	182
(7)	From John Lydgate, A Balade in Commendation of Our	
	Lady	184
(8)	From The Guildhall Letter-Book (1418)	185
(9)	From William Caxton's Preface to his edition of	
	The Morte Darthure (1485)	186
(10)	From William Caxton's Preface to the Eneydos (1490)	187
(11)	From Sir Thomas Malory, The Morte Darthur	188
(12)	A letter from Margaret Paston	189
Sec	tion C Early Modern English Texts	193
(1)	From Loues Labour's Lost	195
(2)	From As You Like It	197
(3)	From The Tragedie of King Lear	198
(4)	From The Tragedie of Julius Cæsar	200
(5)	From The Tragedie of Hamlet	202
(6)	From The Tragedie of Richard the Third	203
(7)	From The Tragedie of Macbeth	205
(8)	From the Authorised Version of the Bible (1611)	206
(9)	From John Milton's Areopagitica (1644)	208
(10)	From John Dryden, All for Love or, the World Well	
	Lost (1677/1678)	209
(11)	From E.K.'s Preface to Spenser's Shepheardes	
	Calender (1579)	211
(12)	From A Letter of Syr J. Cheke (1557)	212
(13)	From Richard Mulcaster's The First Parte of the	
	Elementarie (1582)	213
(14)	From George Puttenham, 'Of Language', in The Arte of	
	English Poesie (1589)	214
(15)	From The Letters of Lady Brilliana Harley (1642)	215
(16)	From The Tryall of Ralph Hall and Mary his wife (1665)	216

PART III BIBLIOGRAPHY, GLOSSARY AND THEMATIC	;	
INDEX	219	
Annotated Bibliography	221	
Old English Glossary		
Thematic Index	245	