

Contents

<i>General Editors' Preface</i>	ix
<i>List of Abbreviations</i>	x
<i>Introduction</i>	xi
1 Introductory Key Concepts	1
(a) The Anglo-Saxon Period	1
(b) Anglo-Saxon Society	4
(c) The Norman Conquest and the Later Medieval Period	6
(d) Middle English Society	11
(e) Religion: Pagan and Christian	15
(f) Philosophy and Political Thought	25
2 Old English	35
(a) Old English Literature: an Overview	35
(b) Anglo-Latin Writing	42
(c) Legal Texts	47
(d) Historical Texts	51
(e) Prose	57
(f) Homilies, Sermons, and Saints' Lives	61
(g) Scientific and Educational Texts	68
(h) Poetry	73
(i) Elegies and Transience	81
(j) Battle Poetry and Concepts of Heroism	85
(k) Riddles	92
(l) Christian Verse	96
(m) Wisdom Poetry	101
(n) <i>Beowulf</i>	105
(o) <i>Apollonius of Tyre</i>	112
3 Middle English	116
(a) Old English Literary Tradition after the Norman Conquest	116
(b) Latin and Anglo-Norman Literature	120

(c)	Early Middle English Poetry	125
(d)	Didactic Literature and Saints' Lives	129
(e)	Post-Conquest Historical Writing	134
(f)	Lyrical Poetry	139
(g)	Debate Poetry	143
(h)	Romances and Arthurian Literature	147
(i)	Comedy and Satire	154
(j)	Mystics	156
(k)	John Wyclif and Lollardy	161
(l)	Middle English Theatre	165
(m)	Science, Information, and Travel	170
(n)	Dream-Visions	175
(o)	William Langland, <i>Piers Plowman</i>	178
(p)	The <i>Gawain</i> -Poet	183
(q)	John Gower	188
(r)	Geoffrey Chaucer	192
(s)	Thomas Hoccleve and John Lydgate	204
(t)	Medieval Scottish Literature	210
(u)	William Caxton	216
4	Approaches, Theory, and Practice	221
(a)	Old English Language	221
(b)	Middle English Language	227
(c)	Translating and Commentary	230
(d)	Manuscripts	236
(e)	Authorship, Dating, and Transmission of Texts	244
(f)	Source Studies	250
(g)	Metre and Language of Poetry	253
(h)	Genres of Old and Middle English Literature	263
(i)	Placing Literature in Context	267
(j)	Editorial Practices	270
(k)	Theoretical Approaches	274
	<i>Chronology</i>	288
	<i>References</i>	298
	<i>Index</i>	332