

Contents

| | |
|------------------------------------|-----------|
| <i>Preface</i> | xi |
| PART I DESCRIPTIVE MATERIAL | 1 |
| 1 Introduction | 3 |
| 1.1 About this book | 4 |
| 1.2 A short history of English | 5 |
| 1.3 External history | 7 |
| 1.4 Internal history | 10 |
| 1.5 A preliminary illustration | 14 |
| 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 |

CONTENTS

| | | |
|------------------|---|------------|
| 3.2 | Spelling and pronunciation | 47 |
| 3.3 | Syntax | 50 |
| 3.4 | Paradigms | 67 |
| 3.5 | Lexicon | 85 |
| 3.6 | Appendix I: From Early to Late West Saxon | 87 |
| 3.7 | Appendix II: On OE dialects | 88 |
| 4 | Middle English | 91 |
| 4.1 | Introduction | 92 |
| 4.2 | Spelling and pronunciation | 94 |
| 4.3 | Syntax | 99 |
| 4.4 | Paradigms | 111 |
| 4.5 | Lexicon | 120 |
| 4.6 | Appendix: On Middle English dialects | 121 |
| 5 | Early Modern English | 125 |
| 5.1 | Introduction | 126 |
| 5.2 | Spelling and pronunciation | 127 |
| 5.3 | Syntax | 134 |
| 5.4 | Paradigms | 145 |
| 5.5 | Lexicon | 153 |
| 5.6 | Appendix: Evidence for EModE dialects | 154 |
| PART II | ILLUSTRATIVE TEXTS | 157 |
| Section A | Old English Texts | 159 |
| (1) | The Man Who Built His House on Sand | 160 |
| (2) | Abraham and Isaac | 161 |
| (3) | From the <i>Anglo-Saxon Chronicle</i> | 162 |
| (4) | Daniel | 163 |
| (5) | Cædmon's Hymn | 164 |
| (6) | From <i>The Dream of the Rood</i> | 165 |
| (7) | From <i>Ælfric's Life of King Oswald</i> | 167 |
| (8) | From <i>Beowulf</i> | 169 |

Section B Middle English texts **175**

- | | |
|--|-----|
| (1) From <i>The General Prologue to the Canterbury Tales</i> | 176 |
| (2) From <i>The Pardoner's Tale</i> | 178 |
| (3) From <i>The Parson's Tale</i> | 181 |
| (4) From <i>The Peterborough Chronicle</i> | 184 |
| (5) From <i>Sir Orfeo</i> | 186 |
| (6) From <i>Sir Gawain and the Green Knight</i> | 188 |
| (7) From William Caxton's Preface to his edition of the <i>Morte Darthure</i> | 190 |
| (8) From Sir Thomas Malory, <i>The Morte Darthur</i> | 192 |
| (9) A letter from Margaret Paston | 193 |

Section C Early Modern English texts **199**

- | | |
|--|-----|
| (1) From <i>Loues labour's lost</i> | 201 |
| (2) From <i>As you like it</i> | 203 |
| (3) From <i>The Tragedie of King Lear</i> | 204 |
| (4) From <i>The Tragedie of Julius Cæsar</i> | 207 |
| (5) From <i>The Tragedie of Hamlet</i> | 208 |
| (6) From <i>The Tragedie of Richard the Third</i> | 210 |
| (7) From the <i>Authorized Version of the Bible</i> (1611) | 212 |
| (8) From E.K.'s Preface to Spenser's <i>Shepherdess Calender</i> (1579) | 213 |
| (9) From John Milton's <i>Areopagitica</i> (1644) | 215 |
| (10) From John Dryden, <i>All for Love or, the World Well Lost</i> (1677/1678) | 216 |
| (11) From <i>The Letters of Lady Brilliana Harley</i> (1642) | 218 |

PART III BIBLIOGRAPHY, GLOSSARY AND THEMATIC INDEX **221**

- | | |
|-------------------------------|-----|
| <i>Annotated Bibliography</i> | 223 |
| <i>Old English Glossary</i> | 229 |
| <i>Thematic Index</i> | 247 |