

# Contents

<i>Preface</i>	ix
<i>Acknowledgements</i>	xiii
<b>1 Old English Literature</b>	<b>I</b>
<i>Beowulf</i>	1
‘The Seafarer’ and ‘The Wanderer’	7
Battle Poems and ‘The Dream of the Rood’	10
Old English Language	12
<b>2 Middle English Literature</b>	<b>I4</b>
From the Norman Conquest to Chaucer	14
Julian of Norwich, Margery Kempe, <i>Sir Gawain and the Green Knight</i>	17
Geoffrey Chaucer, William Dunbar, Robert Henryson	22
William Langland, Medieval Drama, Thomas Malory	28
<b>3 Sixteenth-Century Poetry and Prose</b>	<b>34</b>
Sir Thomas Wyatt	34
Sixteenth-Century Prose and the Reformation	37
The Sonnet: Sir Philip Sidney and William Shakespeare	42
Edmund Spenser	48
<b>4 Shakespeare</b>	<b>53</b>
Shakespeare in Context	53
Shakespeare’s Comedies and Histories	55
Shakespeare’s Tragedies	62
Shakespeare’s Late Plays	68
<b>5 Renaissance and Restoration Drama</b>	<b>73</b>

Renaissance Drama and Christopher Marlowe	73
Elizabethan and Jacobean Revenge Tragedy	79
Ben Jonson and the Masque	83
Restoration Drama	87
<b>6 Seventeenth-Century Poetry and Prose</b>	<b>91</b>
John Donne	91
From Ben Jonson to John Bunyan and Andrew Marvell	96
John Milton	106
John Dryden	111
<b>7 The Eighteenth Century</b>	<b>114</b>
Alexander Pope	114
The Augustan Age	121
Edward Gibbon, Samuel Johnson	126
Sensibility	129
<b>8 The Novel: The First Hundred Years</b>	<b>133</b>
Daniel Defoe	133
Aphra Behn, Samuel Richardson, Henry Fielding, Laurence Sterne, Tobias Smollett	137
From Eliza Haywood to Mary Shelley	143
Walter Scott and Jane Austen	147
<b>9 The Romantic Period</b>	<b>151</b>
The Age of Revolution	151
William Blake, William Wordsworth, Samuel Taylor Coleridge	154
Lord Byron, Percy Bysshe Shelley, John Keats	161
Radical Voices	165
<b>10 Victorian Literature, 1837–1857</b>	<b>169</b>

Charles Dickens	169
Charlotte and Emily Brontë	173
William Makepeace Thackeray, Elizabeth Gaskell	179
Alfred Lord Tennyson, Robert Browning, Elizabeth Barrett Browning	183
<b>II Victorian Literature, 1857–1876</b>	<b>188</b>
Victorian Thinkers	188
George Eliot	191
Wilkie Collins and the Sensation Novel	197
Anthony Trollope, Christina Rossetti	201
<b>12 Victorian Literature, 1876–1901</b>	<b>206</b>
Thomas Hardy	206
George Gissing, George Moore, Samuel Butler, Henry James, Robert Louis Stevenson	212
Rudyard Kipling	217
George Bernard Shaw, Oscar Wilde, Late Victorian Poetry	219
<b>13 The Twentieth Century: The Early Years</b>	<b>224</b>
Joseph Conrad	224
Arnold Bennett, H. G. Wells, E. M. Forster, Katherine Mansfield	230
D. H. Lawrence	234
Georgian Poetry, War Poetry, W. B. Yeats	238
<b>14 The Twentieth Century: Between the Wars</b>	<b>246</b>
T. S. Eliot	246
James Joyce	251
Virginia Woolf	257
The 1930s	261
<b>15 The Twentieth Century: The Second World War</b>	

<b>to the End of the Millennium</b>	<b>267</b>
Wartime and Post-War Britain	267
Drama	271
Novels	277
Poetry	282
<b>16 Postscript</b>	<b>287</b>
The Twenty-First Century	287
<i>Periods of English Literature and Language</i>	293
<i>Chronology</i>	295
<i>Further reading</i>	333
<i>Index</i>	335