

# Contents

Abbreviations .....	VIII
Introduction .....	1
1. The Origins of English .....	2
Old and Middle English Dialects .....	5
Writing Systems .....	6
Pronunciation .....	8
2. Phonology .....	12
Vowel Change: Post-vocalic Consonants and Consonant Groups .....	13
Old English Vowels: Further Changes .....	16
Old English Vowels and their Continuation in Middle English .....	17
English Vowels: Quantitative Changes .....	17
Late Middle and Early Modern English Developments .....	19
Vowels in Unstressed Syllables .....	20
Consonants .....	22
Loanwords .....	25
3. Morphology .....	26
Introduction .....	26
Nouns .....	26
Adjectives .....	36
Adverbs .....	40
Pronouns .....	42
Numerals .....	47
Verbs .....	49
Strong Verbs .....	51
Weak Verbs .....	58
Preterite-Present Verbs .....	63
Irregular Verbs .....	68
4. Syntax .....	71
Introduction .....	71
Nominal Forms: Function and Use .....	71
Verbal Forms: Function and Use .....	75
Negation .....	79
Main Clauses .....	81
Dependent Clauses .....	82
Medieval English Verse .....	89

5. Old English Texts .....	91
Introduction .....	91
Text 1: The Old English Heptateuch .....	92
Text 2: The Anglo-Saxon Chronicle: 755 and 1066 .....	94
Text 3: The Old English Bede .....	101
Text 4: The Old English Orosius .....	108
Text 5: King Alfred .....	111
Text 6: Ælfric: Life of King Oswold .....	116
Text 7: Wulfstan: Sermo Lupi .....	123
Text 8: The Old English Apollonius .....	129
Text 9: The Anglo-Saxon Chronicle: Brunanburh .....	133
Text 10: The Battle of Maldon .....	137
Text 11: The Dream of the Rood .....	147
6. Middle English Texts .....	153
Introduction .....	153
Text 1: The Peterborough Chronicle .....	154
Text 2: The Middle English Physiologus .....	159
Text 3: Kentish Sermons .....	162
Text 4: Ayenbite of Inwit .....	165
Text 5: The South English Legendary .....	169
Text 6: Sir Gawain and the Green Knight .....	177
Text 7: Piers Plowman .....	187
Text 8: The Fox and the Wolf .....	197
Text 9: King Horn .....	204
Text 10: Middle English Lyric Poetry .....	210
Text 11: The Northern Homily Cycle .....	224
Text 12: York Plays .....	229
Text 13: Geoffrey Chaucer .....	241
Text 14: Robert Henryson .....	254
7. Glossaries .....	262
Old English Glossary .....	264
Middle English Glossary .....	315
8. Bibliography .....	388