

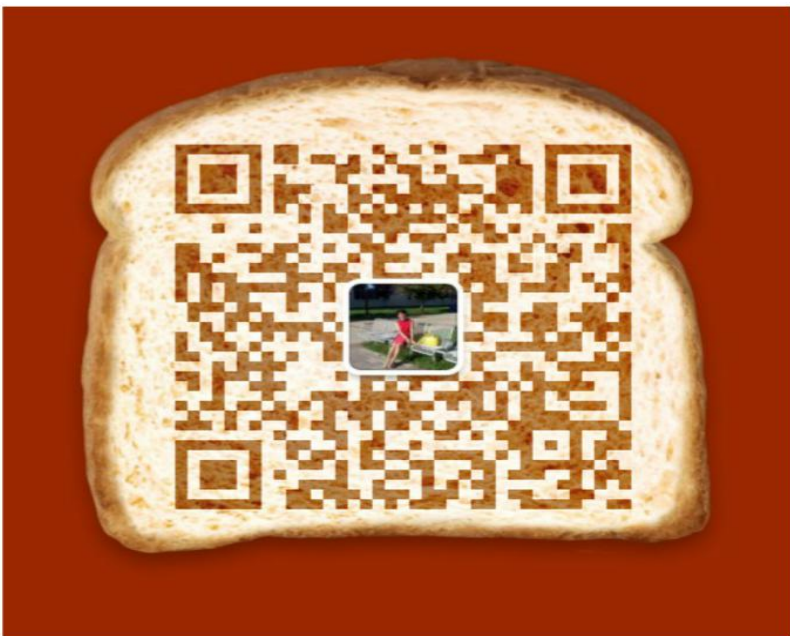
An Introduction to English Literature

Mona





Mona 



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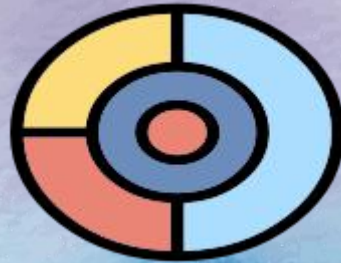
360337745@qq.com

William Shakespeare:

"Henry VI": "I'll call for pen and ink and write my mind."

Jane Austen:

"Northanger Abbey": "The person, be it gentleman or lady, who has not pleasure in a good novel, must be intolerably stupid."



Robert Louis Stevenson:

"The difficulty of literature is not to write, but to write what you mean; not to affect your reader, but to affect him precisely as you wish."

“

What Literature Can Teach Us

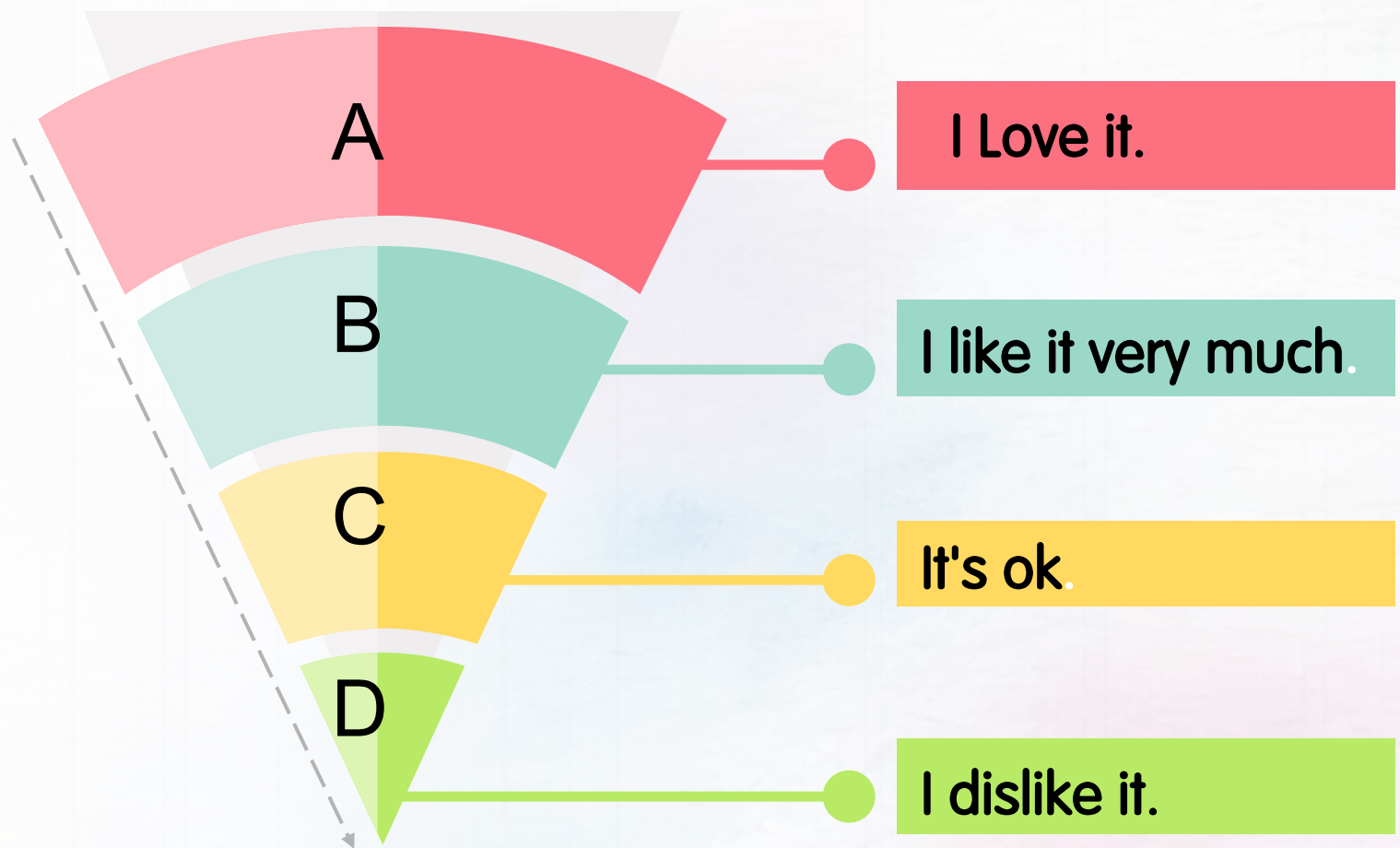
Communication and research skills—and how to be a better human being.

”

— Esther Lombardi

Do you like literature?

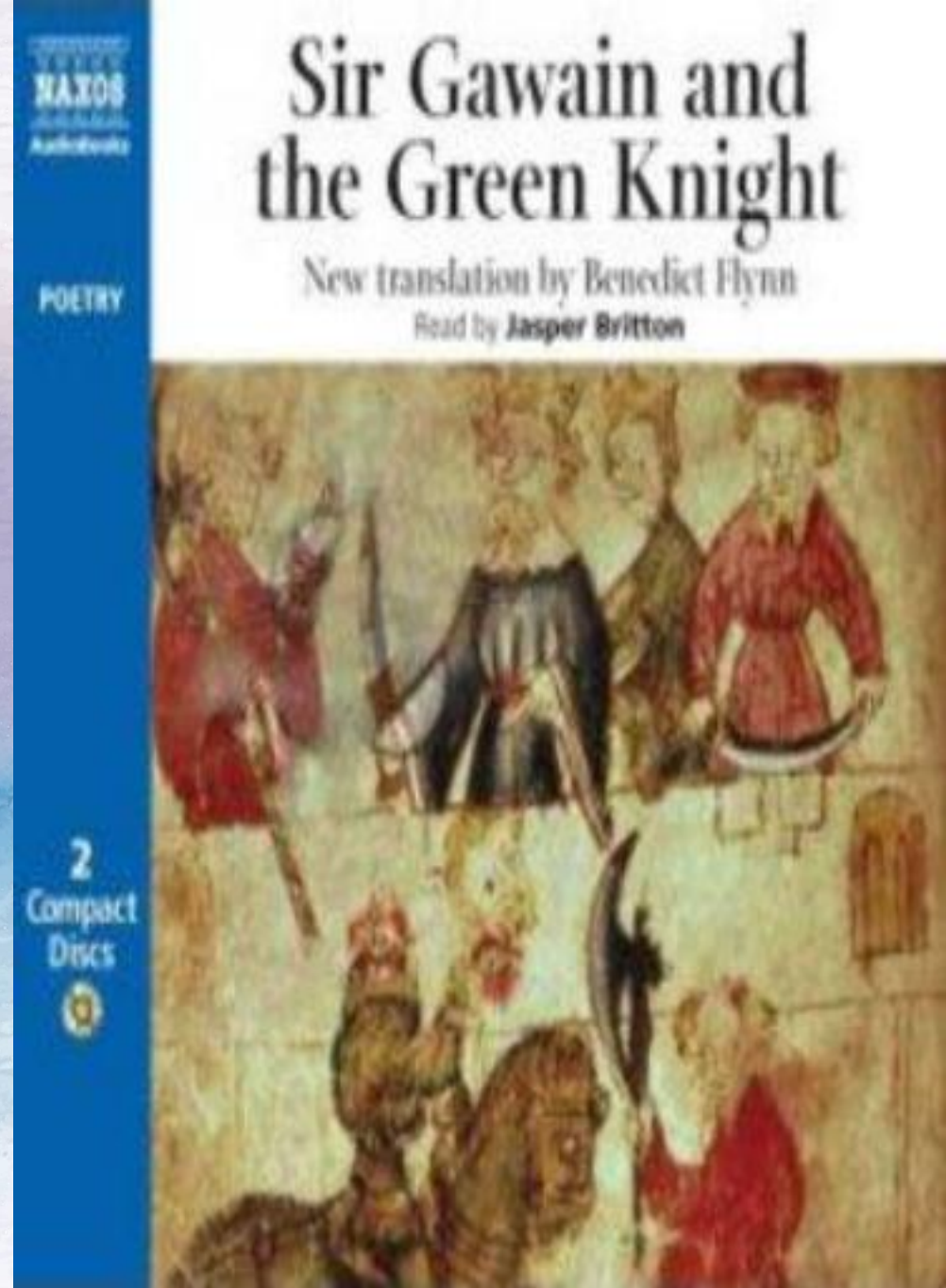




Discussion

- How much do you know about this course? What do you expect to **gain from this course?**
- What **classical literary works** have you ever read? Please list the titles of the works. Which work impressed you most?
- What's your **understanding of literature?**





WORLD
NAXOS
CLASSICS



2 CD SET
CLASSIC
FICTION
UNABRIDGED

UNION
RECORDS

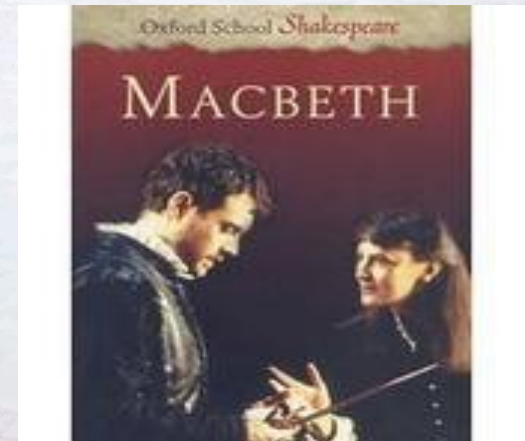
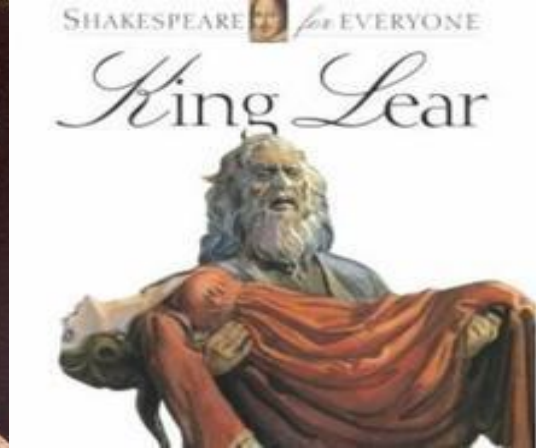
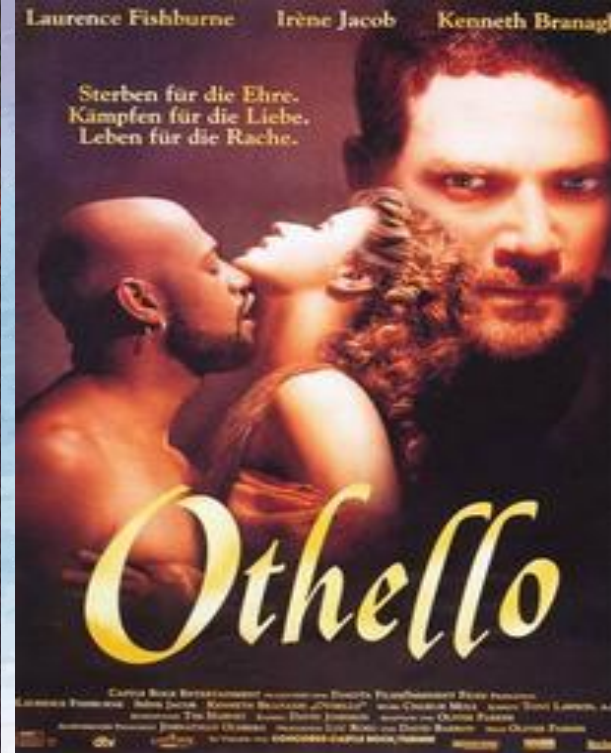
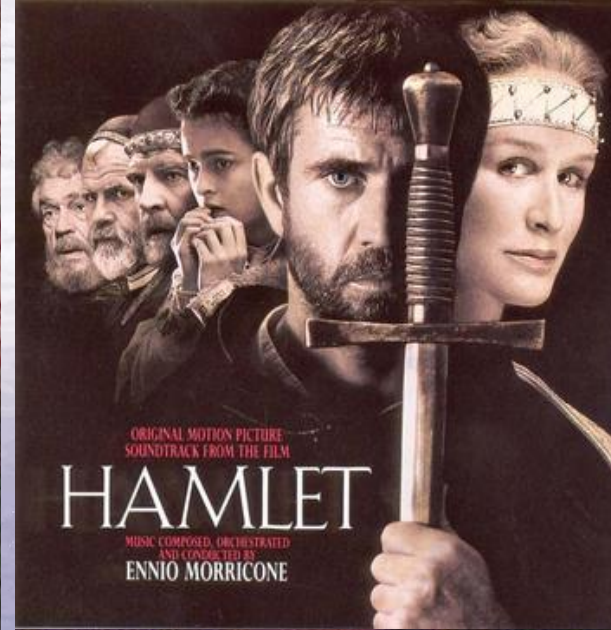
GEOFFREY CHAUCER
The Canterbury Tales
Volume II

READ BY FRANCES JETER, CHARLES SIMPSON,
JOHN ROWE & JOHN MOFFATT WITH PHILIP MADOC AS HOST



CLASSIC LITERATURE WITH CLASSICAL MUSIC





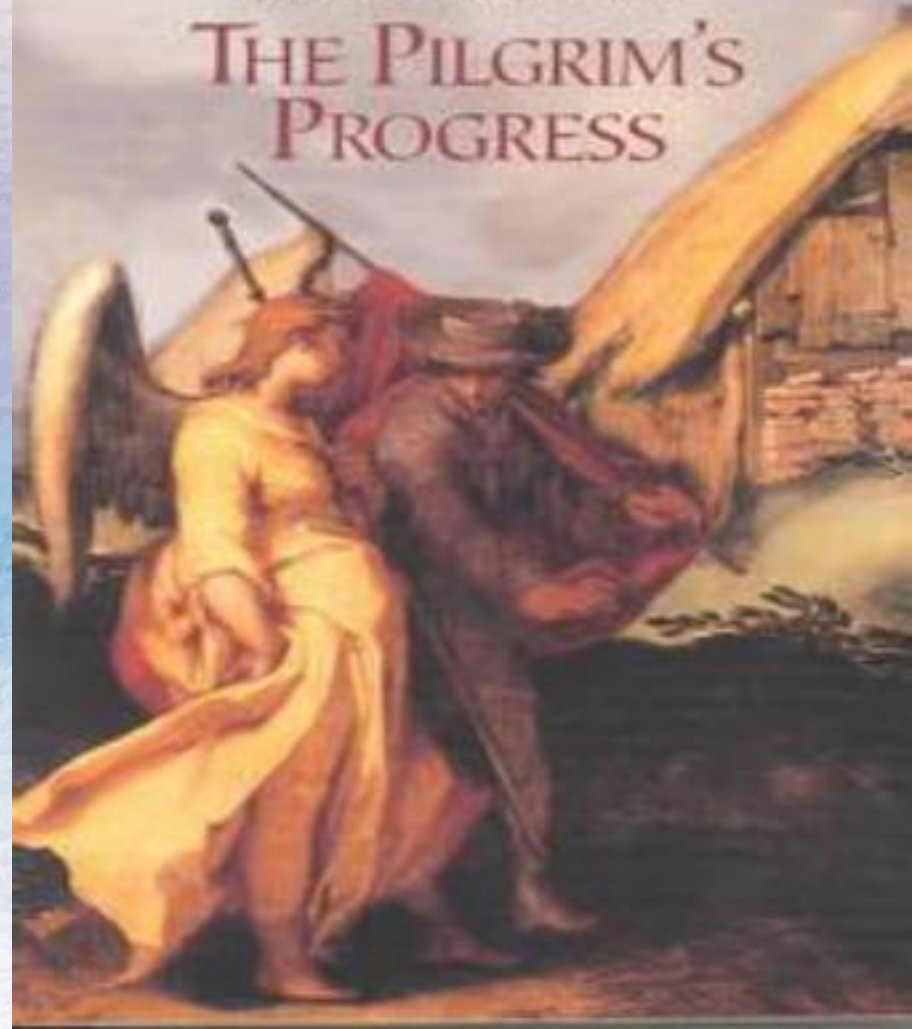
The
Essays

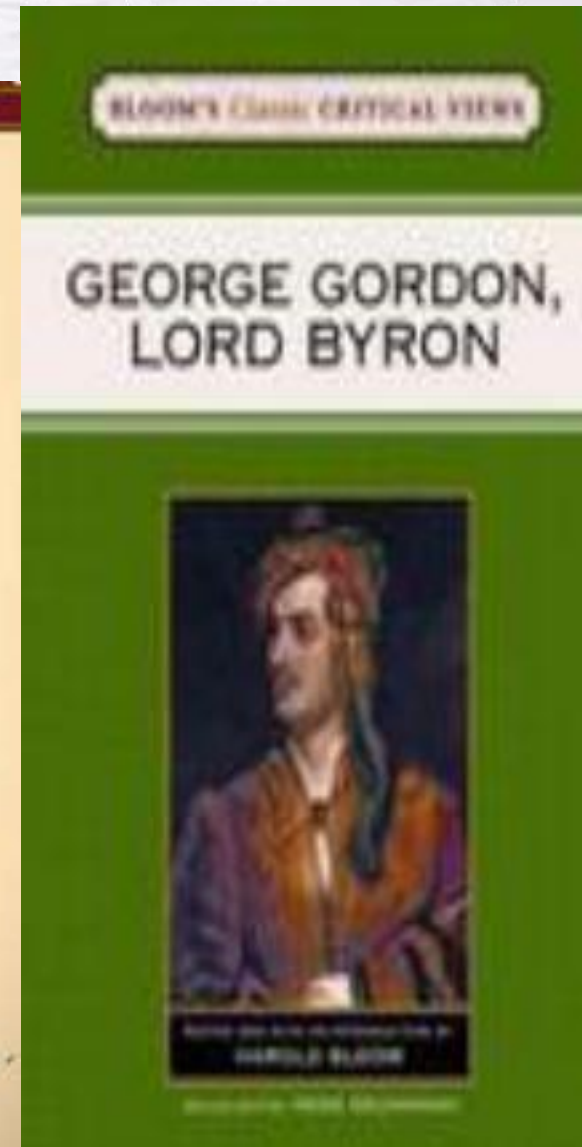
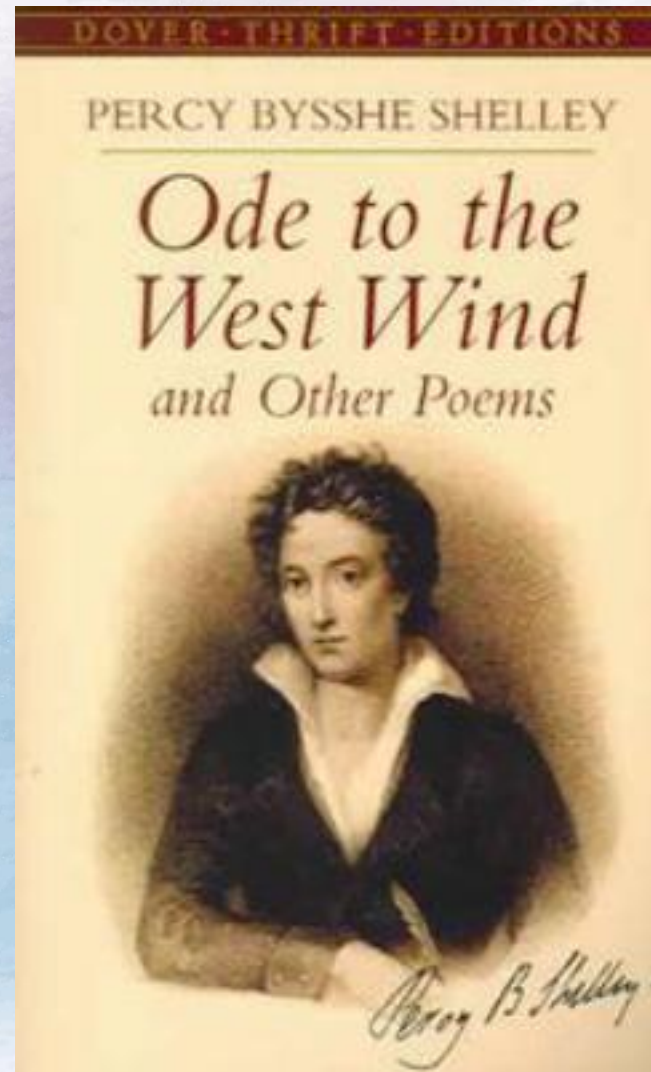
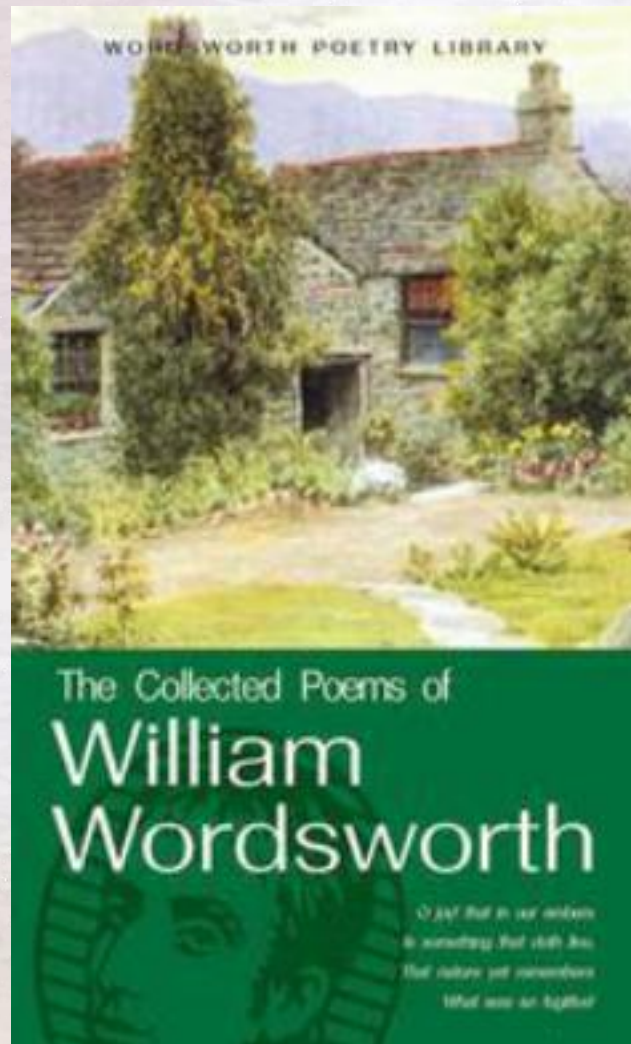


Francis Bacon

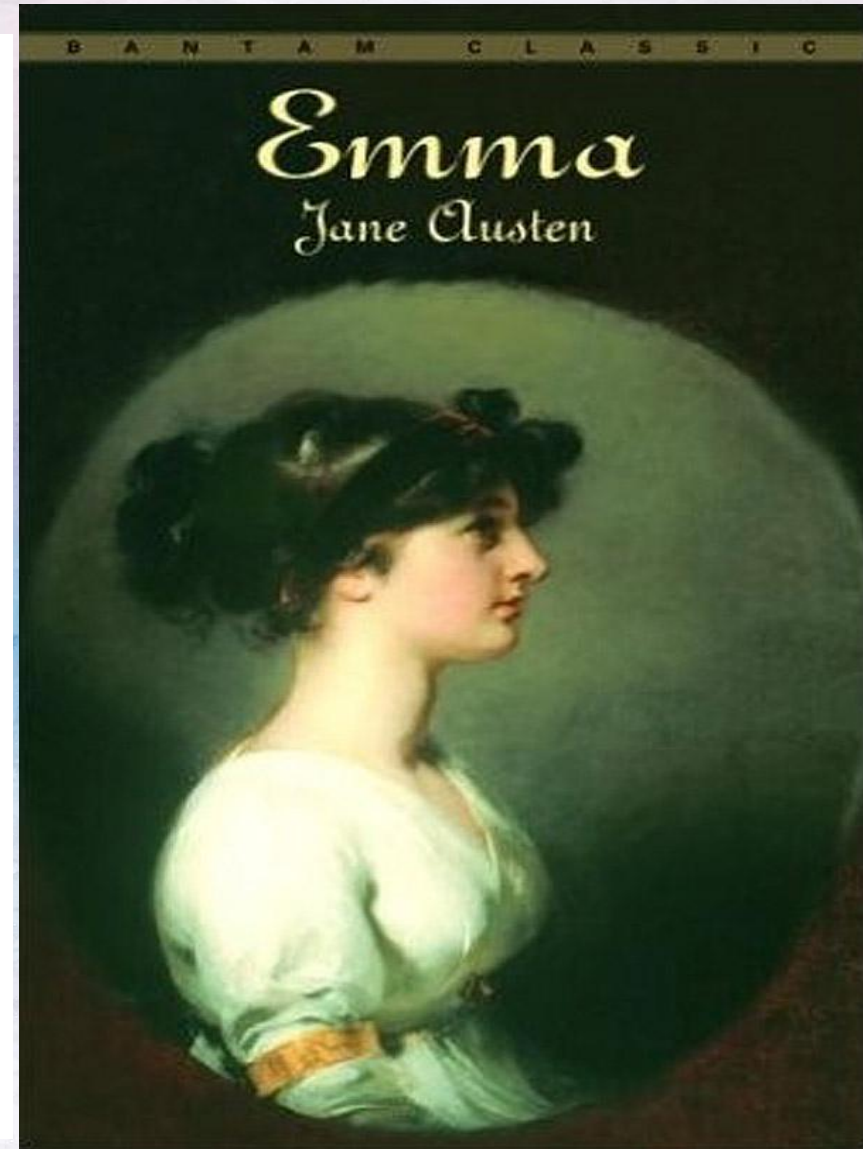
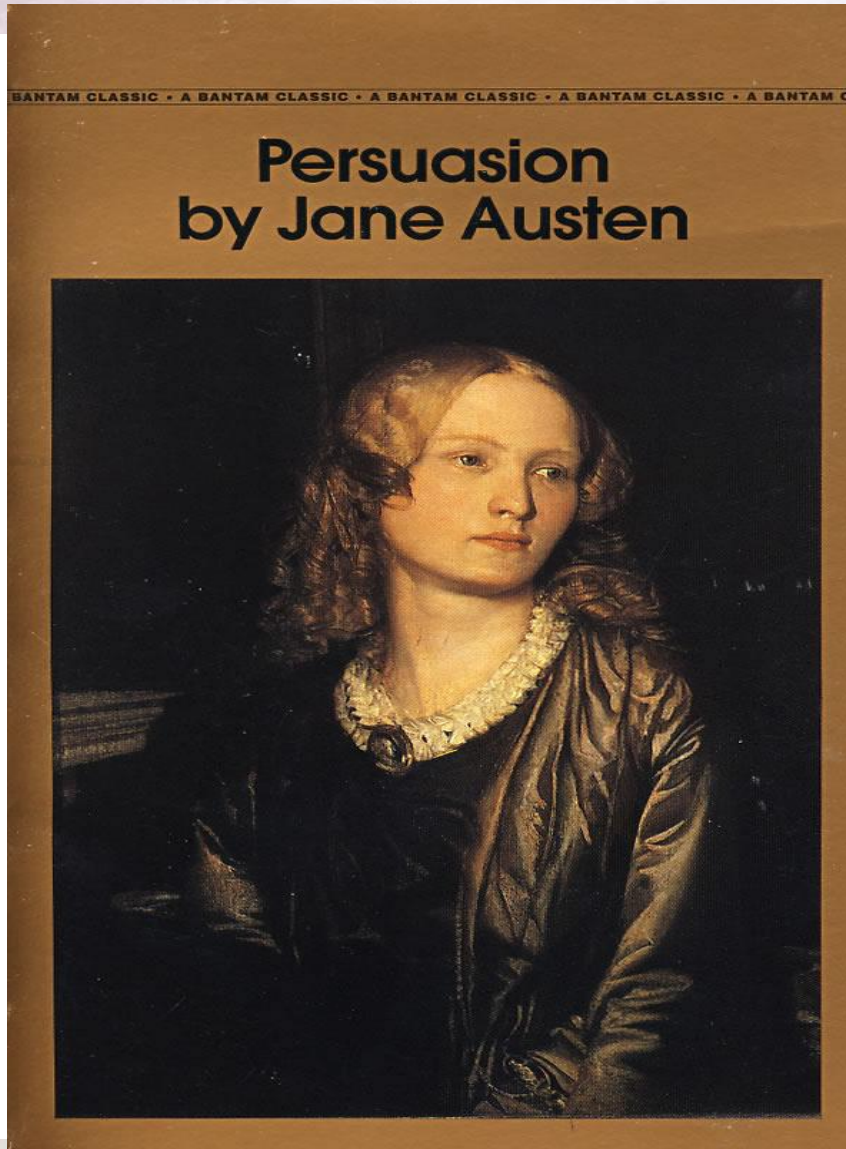
DOVER • THRIFT • EDITIONS

JOHN BUNYAN
THE PILGRIM'S
PROGRESS

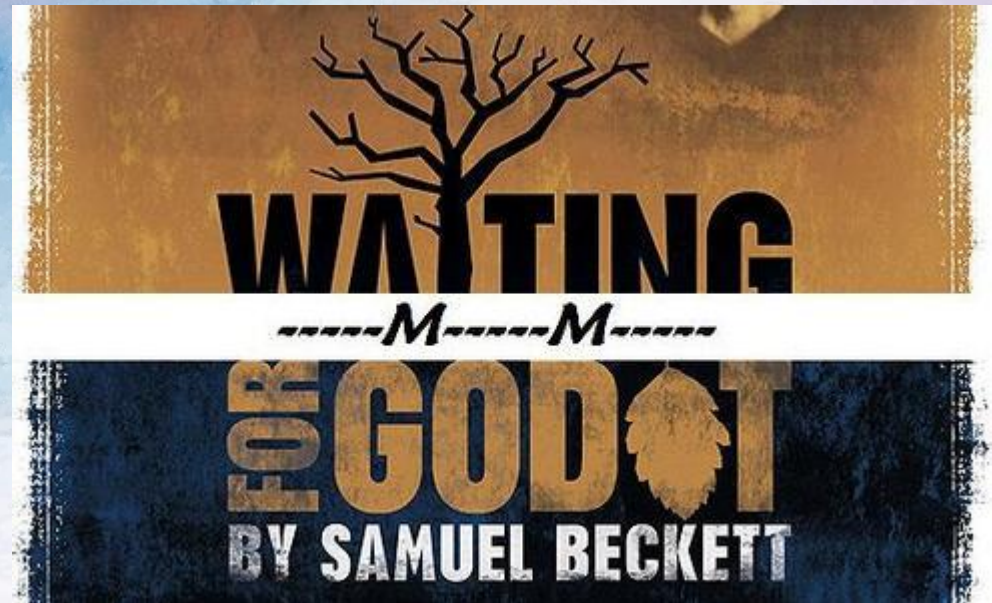
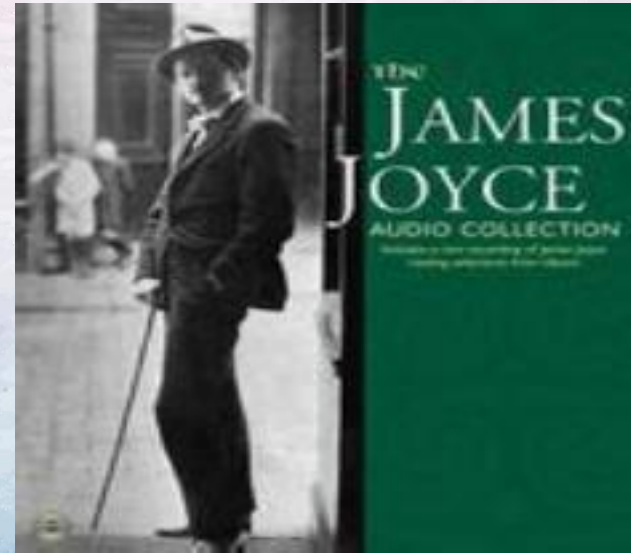




Jane Austen (1775-1817)









A Brief Introduction to Literature

What is literature?

- Literature is broadly defined as any written or spoken material, but the term most often refers to creative works, which are of artistic value.
- Literature is the expression of life in words of truth and beauty; it is the written record of man's spirit, of his thoughts, emotions and aspirations; it is the history of human soul. It is characterized by its artistic, suggestive and permanent qualities.

Literary Genres

- Poetry
- Drama
- Essay
- Fiction/novel

Why Is Literature Important?





LOREM

- ◆ 1. Expanding horizons
- ◆ 2. A leap into the past
- ◆ 3. Better writing skills



LOREM

- ◆ 4. Building critical thinking skills
- ◆ 5. Appreciation for other cultures and beliefs
- ◆ 6. Addressing humanity

Why Read Literature?



A. Reading for Pleasure



B. Reading for Relaxation

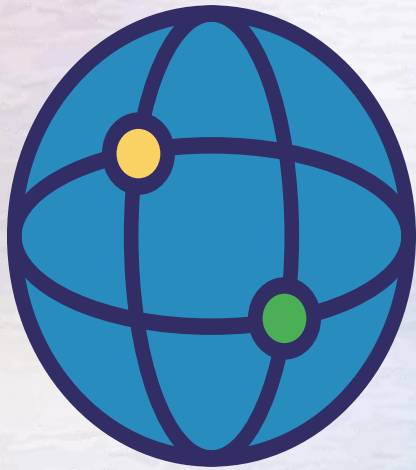
A WEAK POEM
(To be read lying down)
Roger McGough



Oh dear, this poem is very weak
It can hardly stand up straight
Which comes from eating junk food
And going to bed too late.



C. Reading for Acquiring Knowledge



The readers' interest in reading lies partly in the fact that they acquire a good deal of information.

Literature gives readers an insight into the tradition, custom, beliefs, attitudes, folklore, values of the age in which it is written. This can broaden readers' knowledge of the world.

All the world 's a stage, and all the men and women merely players.

—William Shakespeare

It is a truth universally acknowledged that a single man in possession of a good fortune must be in want of a wife.

— Jane Austen

Clothes make the man. Naked people have little or no influence on society.

—Mark Twain

D. Reading for Confronting Experience

- Doris Lessing(1919—2013) states: "Literature maps the world for us, fleshing out what we get from newspaper articles and television reports, giving us a parallel landscape infinitely rich and various where we may stroll any time we like, tourists in imaginary world that mirror real ones."



- Literature is appealing mainly because of **its relationship to human experience**. It sheds light on the complexity and ambiguity of human experiences and thus broadens readers' awareness of the possibilities of experiences.



疫情中，值得铭记的15句话

武汉不是一座“孤岛”，武汉不是孤军作战。
Wuhan is not an island and is not fighting alone.

——中央指导组成员、国务院副秘书长丁向阳



- No Man Is An Island
- ——John Donne
- No man is an island,
- entire of itself;
- every man is a piece of the continent,
- a part of the main;
- if a clod be washed away by the sea,
- Europe is the less,
- as well as if a promontory were,
- as well as if a manor of thy friend's or of thine own were:
- any man's death diminishes me,
- because I am involved in mankind,
- and therefore,
- never send to know for whom the bell tolls;
- it tolls for thee.

没有谁是一座孤岛，
在大海里独踞；
每个人都像一块小小的泥土，
连接成整个陆地。
如果有一块泥土被海水冲刷，
欧洲就会失去一角，
这如同一座山岬，
也如同一座庄园，
无论是你的还是你朋友的。
无论谁死了，
都是我的一部分在死去，
因为我包含在人类这个概念里
因此，
不要问丧钟为谁而鸣，
丧钟为你而鸣。



The powerful poetic message written on each box:
“山川异域，风月同天，” which literally translates to
“Mountains and rivers on foreign land, wind and
moon under the same sky,” or officially, “Lands
apart, sky shared.”

The line comes from a seventh century Buddhist hymn by Prince Nagaya, a politician from the Nara period (710 – 794) of Japan, titled “Embroidered on Kasaya Robes for Good Karma” :

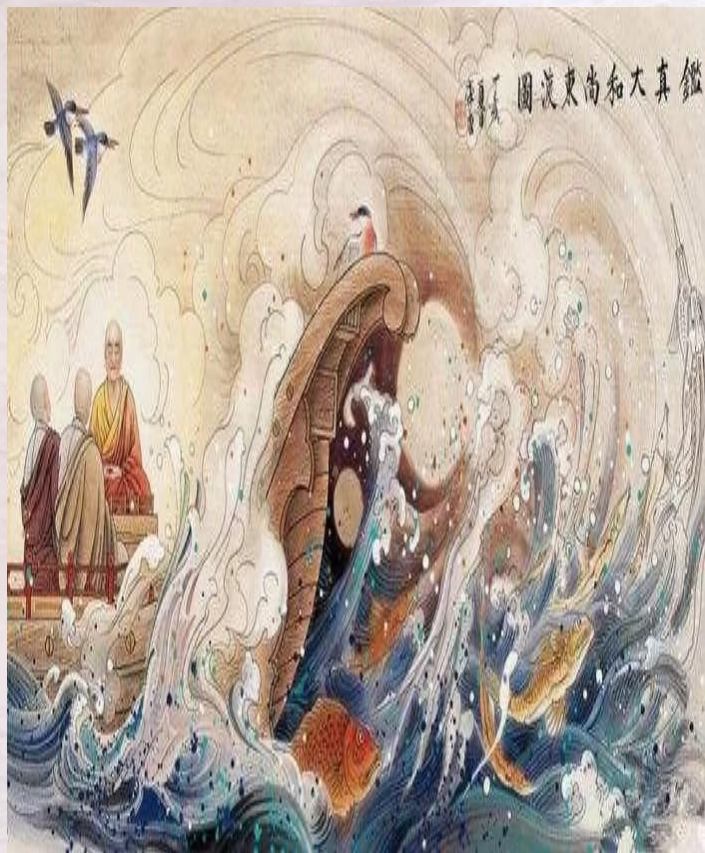
这句诗出自7世纪日本长屋亲王的佛诗《绣袈裟衣缘》，长屋亲王是日本奈良时期（710–794）的一位政治家。



- 山川异域，风月同天。
- Lands apart, sky shared.
- 寄诸佛子，共结来缘。
- For the disciples of Buddha, to nurture good karma.

As the title suggests, the hymn was embroidered on 1,000 Buddhist robes which Prince Nagaya had made and sent to the Tang court in China, part of his invitation for Chinese Buddhist monks to visit Japan. The poem was also included in the Complete Tang Poems, the largest existing collection of Tang poetry.

如题所示，这首佛诗被绣在长屋亲王命人制作的1000件袈裟上，送往中国唐朝，这是他邀请中国僧人来日本的一份诚意。这首诗也被收录进了现存最大的唐诗集《全唐诗》。



The reference does not only invoke shared history, but also mutual appreciation for ancient poetry in the Chinese language. Many in China were touched by the poetic expression of support from Japanese citizens during the COVID-19 outbreak. 这句诗不但让人想起了这段共同的历史，也引发了两国人民对中文古诗的共同欣赏之情。许多中国人都被日本民众在新型冠状病毒疫情期间支持中国的诗意表达方式所打动了。



In early February, another shipment of medical supplies from Japan arrived with another famous line: “岂曰无衣，与子同裳，” which translates to “Fear not the want of armor, for mine is also yours to wear,” a quote from a battle song of the Qin state, “Wuyi,” in the Book of Songs.

另一批医疗物资上写着另一句名诗：“岂曰无衣，与子同裳”，这句诗出自《诗经》中的《秦风·无衣》。

- It was reportedly suggested to the Japanese donor organization by an overseas Chinese student to express a wish to fight together against the virus.
- 据称，这是一位中国留学生向该日本捐赠机构提出的建议，来表达一同抗击病毒的心愿。

岂曰无衣？与子同裳。

Fear not the want of armor, for mine is also yours to wear.

王于兴师，修我甲兵。与子偕行！

The king is raising his forces; I will sharpen my weapons, and march along with you!



In another case, the city of Maizuru donated supplies to Dalian, its “friendship city” since 1982, with the message: “青山一道同云雨，明月何曾是两乡，” a quote from Tang poet Wang Changling’s “Seeing Off Imperial Censor Chai” :

日本舞鹤市捐赠给大连的物资上写着这句诗：“青山一道同云雨，明月何曾是两乡。”这句诗出自唐代诗人王昌龄的《送柴侍御》。舞鹤市和大连市从1982年起就结成了友好城市。

流水通波接武冈，
送君不觉有离伤。

The river connects all the way to Wugang
On parting with you my heart is not weighed down.

青山一道同云雨，
明月何曾是两乡。

Though separated by a mountain, we' ll share the
same clouds and rain

The bright moon belongs not to a single town.

-----《送柴侍御》



Like the mountain range that
stretches before you and me,
let's share the same trials and
hardships together.

青山一道，同担风雨。

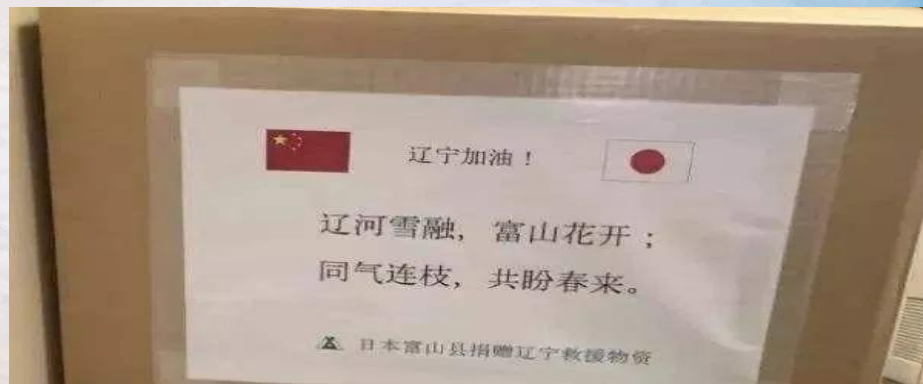
The words, adapted from a poem written by Tang Dynasty poet
Wang Changling, appear on the packaging of masks donated
by a Chinese foundation to Japan.

中国某基金会向日本捐赠口罩，箱子上贴着的诗句取自王昌龄的诗作。

CHINA
DAILY

In Toyama prefecture, an official even wrote an original poem to go with his prefecture's donation to Liaoning province:

日本富山县的一名官员甚至在本县捐赠给中国辽宁省的物资上题了一首自创的诗：



辽河雪融，富山花开；
Liao River thaws, while flowers
bloom in Toyama

同气连枝，共盼春来。
Of the same breath and from
joint branches, we hope
together for the spring to come
soon.

《诗经·卫风·木瓜》

诗经

朗读白云出岫

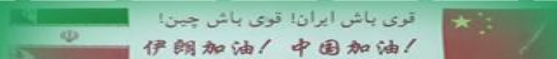
卫风·木瓜

投我以木瓜，报之以琼琚。匪报也，永以为好也！
投我以木桃，报之以琼瑶。匪报也，永以为好也！
投我以木李，报之以琼玖。匪报也，永以为好也！



The sons of Adam are limbs
of each other, having been
created of one essence.

亚 当 子 孙 皆 兄 弟，
兄 弟 犹 如 手 足 亲。



بنی آدم اعضای یکدیگرند، که در آفرینش ز یک گوهرند
亚当子孙皆兄弟，兄弟犹如手足亲

The quotation from ancient Persian poet Saadi Shirazi appears
on the packaging of medical supplies donated by China to Iran.

中国医疗物资驰援伊朗，箱子上贴了古波斯著名诗人萨迪的名句。

CHINA
DAILY



United we
shall overcome.

团 结 定 能 胜 利。



The quote by French writer Victor Hugo appears on the
packaging of medical supplies donated by China to France.

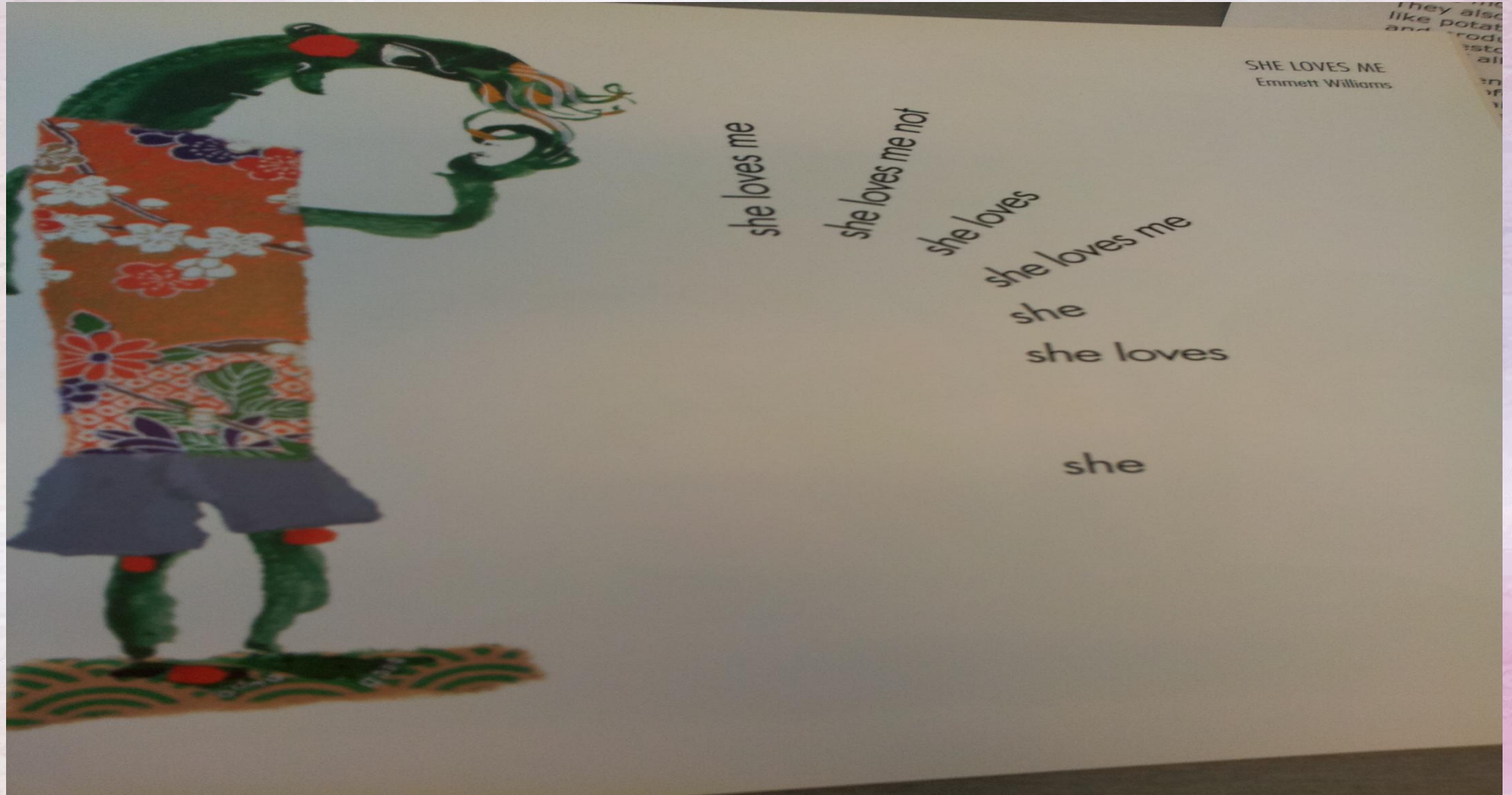
中国医疗物资驰援法国，箱子上贴了法国作家雨果的名言。

CHINA
DAILY

E. Reading for Artistic Appreciation


- Under perfect discipline, literature can be studied for artistic appreciation.
- The well-structured language manifests good craftsmanship, and the beauty of expression form enjoys immortality.
- A story, a poem, a play or an essay is a self-contained piece of art, with its unique structure and texture. It can be analyzed according to literary theories and criteria.

E. E Cummings [L(a)]



Mia Zamora knows **the power of a good book**. In an age of texting and tweeting, Mia works hard to ensure that Kean students **DISCOVER a true love for reading, especially the classics.** Literature introduces new worlds: **it provides perspectives and experiences that lead to a fulfilling life** and world-class stories really can't be told in just 140 characters.





Enjoy Literature,
Enjoy your Life.

0.1

Course Introduction

0.2

Periods of
English
Literature

0.3

Anglo-Saxon Period

The Anglo-Norman Period

Course Introduction & Aims

- To provide the learners with a brief outline of the history of British and American literature up to the first half of the 20th century;
- To consolidate and extend the learners' knowledge and fluency in English through interaction with literary texts;
- To further develop the learners' ability to recognize and express emotional and moral attitudes on a higher level than about daily occurrences so as to facilitate their communication with educated native speakers;
- To help learners develop interest in and, hopefully, the habit of, reading extensively.

Teaching and Learning Activities

- Assigned work before class;
- Class discussion and presentation work;
- Lectures on the related historical, cultural backgrounds and guided textual appreciation;
- Reading tasks, film-watching, role-play after class.

Periods of English Literature

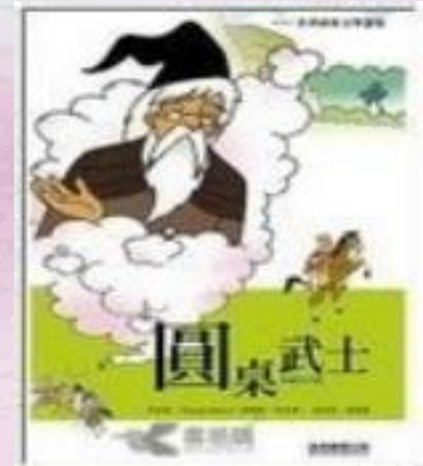
The Old and Medieval English literature	English Renaissance period	The Neo-classical period	The Romantic period	The Victorian period	The Modern period
(450-1550)	(1550 -mid 17th century)	(1660-1798)	(1798-1832)	(1832-1901)	20th century

The Early History

- In the history, England, the early inhabitants were Celts, has been conquered three times. It was conquered by the Romans (55 B.C—407 A.D), the Anglo-Saxons (449—1066), and the Normans (1066—1350).
- England was not much affected by the Roman Conquest, but much affected by the other two conquests.



- The Anglo-Saxons (three tribes) brought to England the Germanic language and culture.
- The Normans brought a fresh wave of Mediterranean civilization, which includes Greek culture, Roman law, French language and Christian religion.
- It is the cultural influences of these two conquests that provided the source for the rise and growth of English literature.



Literature in Anglo-Saxon period

- **Northumbria (诺桑伯兰) School**
 - a. Caedmon: turned the Bible into verse form.
Paraphrase
 - b. Bede
- **Wessex (威塞克斯) Literature: King Alfred**
King Alfred's contribution to English literature
Anglo-Saxon Poetry (British literary tradition)

Beowulf

- How important is *Beowulf*?
- What are the major characters?
- What qualities are endowed with the hero Beowulf?
- What are the stylistic features of this epic?



The Song of Beowulf (Beo+wulf)

- Literary position

The song of Beowulf can be justly termed England's **national epic** .(3183 lines)

✕ epic: a long poem in grand style about the early history or the origin of a nation.

Characters:

Hrothgar: Danish King (Heorot, merrymaking with his soldiers at night)

Grendel: name of a monster

Beowulf: nephew to King Hygelac of the Geats

Grendel's mother





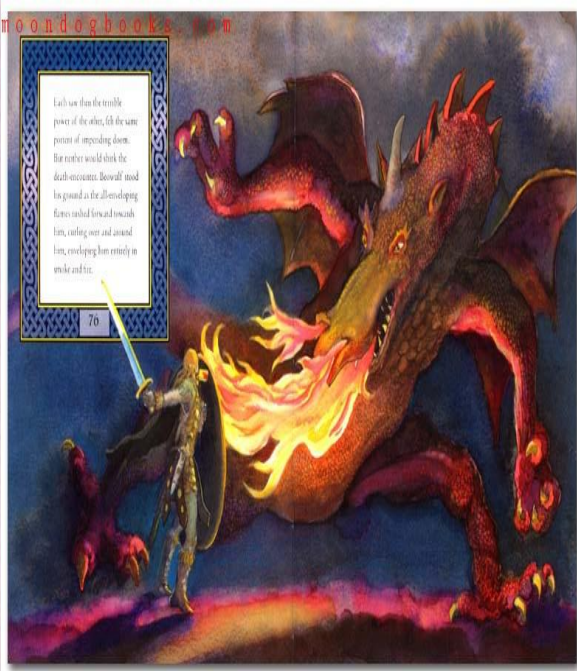
fight with Grendel

(a monster half-human, devouring the warriors while they are feasting. The monster died in the battle against Beowulf)

- fight with Grendel's mother

(she came to avenge the death of her son but was killed by Beowulf)





fight with firedrake

(a fire-breathing dragon. Beowulf came to steal the treasures of earth namely the golden corn and ruddy fruits for his people. he succeeded at last but got mortally wounded and died at last.)

- death and funeral

Thematically the poem presents a vivid picture of how the primitive people wage heroic struggles against the hostile forces of the natural world under a wise and mighty leader.



Class Activity



Extended Questions

- What are people's ideas about the hero Beowulf? Do you think that people's expectations about heroes will change with the time?
- What heroes can you find in Chinese history or legendary stories?

中国最让人怀念的英雄人物

一、项羽 西楚霸王

二、唐玄宗

三、诸葛亮

四、成吉思汗

五、岳飞

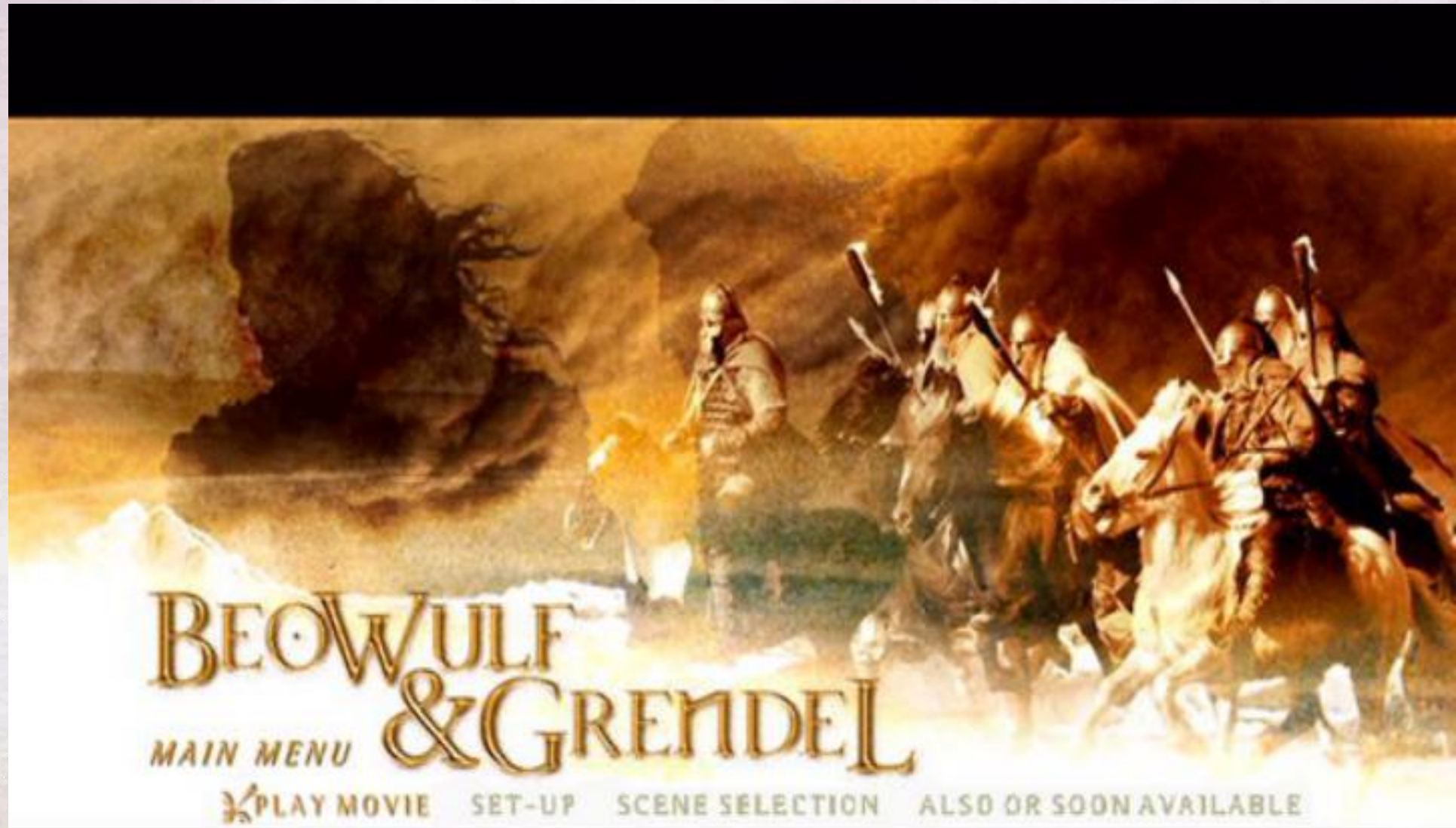
六、关羽

(

<http://baike.baidu.com/view/923224.htm>)



Film



Features of *Beowulf*

- 1. a mixture of **paganism and Christian** elements.
- 2. The use of **alliteration** is another notable feature. In alliterative verse, certain accented words in a line begin with the same consonant sound.
- 3. use of **repetition and variation**
- 4. A lot of **metaphors** and **understatements** are used in the poem.



Comments on *Beowulf*

- 1. Beowulf is a grand hero. He is so, simply by his deeds. He is faithful to his people. He dies a heroic death for his people.
- 2. It is not Christian but a pagan poem, despite the Christian flavor given to it by the monastery scribe. It is the product of an advanced pagan civilization. The whole poem presents us an all-round picture of the tribal society. The social conditions and customs can be seen in it. So the poem also has a great social significance.

The Anglo-Norman Period (1066-1350)

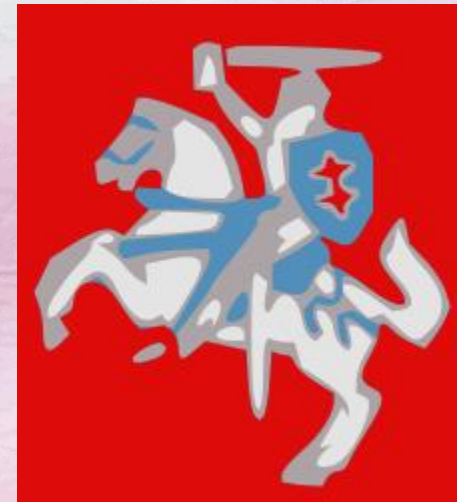
- Historical Background
- In the year 1066, at the battle of Hastings, the Normans headed by William, Duke of Normandy, defeated the Anglo-Saxons. The Normans brought the French civilization and the French language to England. Besides, the Normans brought Greek culture, Roman law and the Christian religion, which provided the source for the rise and growth of English literature. English literature is also a combination of French and Saxon elements.
- The Norman conquests accelerated the development of feudalism in England.

Literature in Anglo-Norman Period

- In contrast with the Anglo-Saxon poetry, Medieval English literature deals with a wider range of subjects, is expressed in the form of romance (传奇).
- ✕ Romance which uses narrative verse or prose to sing knightly adventures or other heroic deeds is a popular literary form in the medieval period.
- Romantic love is an important part of the plot in romance. While the structure is loose and episodic (片段的), the language is simple and straightforward. If the epic reflects a heroic age, the romance reflects a chivalric one.

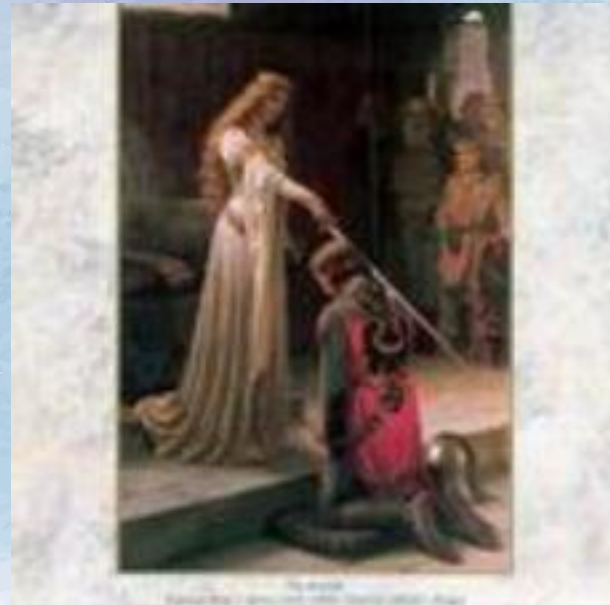
Introduction to Knights

- How did knights come into being?
- What are knight's credos? What are chivalrous honor?
What are chivalrous manners?



Knights' Virtues

- Humility
- Honor
- Sacrifice
- Valor
- Compassion
- Honesty
- Justice



Knight and Courtly Love

- a. No knight can be brave unless he is in love, love gives the knight courage.
- b. The highest glory of any knight was to be worthy of the love of the lady he desired.
- c. It has been said of the age of chivalry that no higher ideal of sexual relations has ever been put forward than that which the best of the knights professed and practiced. (divine love instead of secular love)



Sir Gawain and the Green Knight

- **Plots:**
- Sir Gawain, a knight of King Arthur's Round Table. In the poem, Sir Gawain accepts a challenge from a mysterious warrior who is completely green, from his clothes and hair to his beard and skin, save for his red eyes.
- The "Green Knight" offers to allow anyone to strike him with his axe if the challenger will take a return blow in a year and a day. Gawain accepts, and beheads him in one blow, only to have the Green Knight stand up, pick up his head, and remind Gawain to meet him at the appointed time. In his struggles to uphold his oath, Gawain faithfully demonstrates the qualities of chivalry and loyalty until his honor is called into question by a test crafted by the lady of the castle in which much of the story takes place .

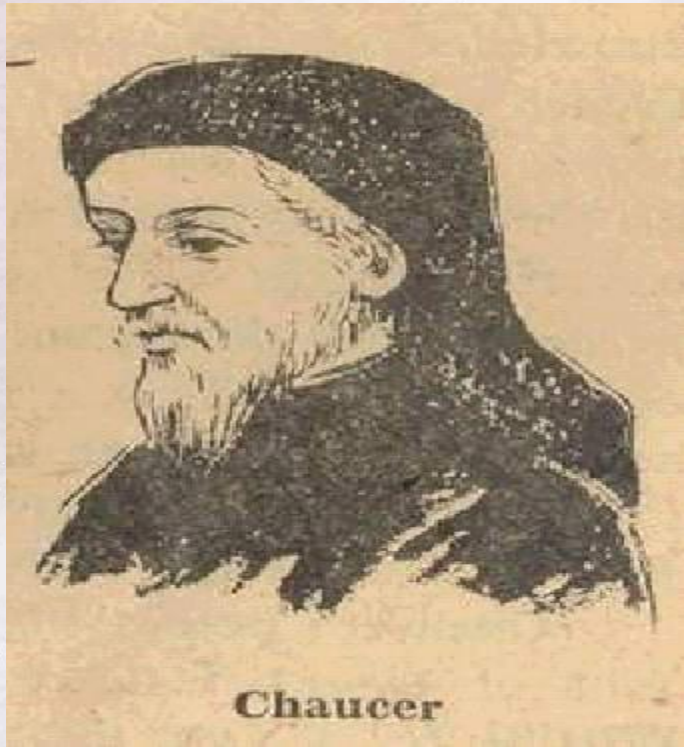
- The lady of the castle seduced Gawain in all means (kissed him, gave him a ring and sent him a girdle), Gawain refused the first two, but accepted the girdle when he was told that this girdle can defend any axes)
- Finally, he reached the green church and met the Green knight. He got three blows from the axe, only became slightly wounded. The Green knight told Gawain that he was the host of the castle. He was glad to see that Gawain went through all the adventures and temptation and has made his promise.



Outline

- Geoffrey Chaucer's Period
- 15th Period

Geoffrey Chaucer (1340?-1400)



Full wise is he that can
himselven knowe.

—Geoffrey Chaucer

Chaucer's literary career

He is acclaimed as "father of English poetry" and one of the greatest narrative poets of England.

Chaucer's life (see page 21)

Chaucer's works:

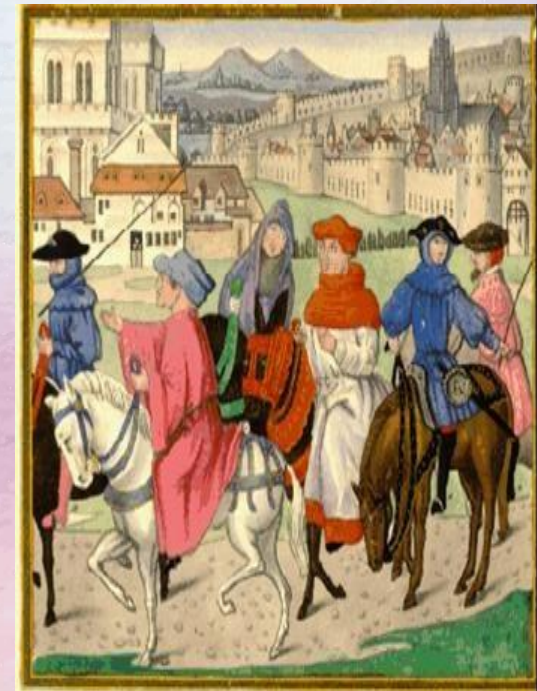
The Romance of the Rose
(translated from French)

Troilus and Cressie
(adapted from Italian),

The Canterbury Tales
(purely English)

"The Canterbury Tales" (1387-1400)

- It is Chaucer's masterpiece and one of the monumental works in English literature.
- Background of the Story
- [The Prologue](#)
- [The Tales](#)
- Social Significance
- Chaucer's Contribution
- Appreciation



General Introduction

- *The Canterbury Tales* , began in about 1386, consists of stories told by some of the thirty pilgrims who set off from the Tabard Inn in Southwark, London, to visit the shrine of St. Thomas a Becket, the Archbishop of Canterbury murdered in his own cathedral in 1170.
- The aim was to tell four stories each: two on the way, two on the way back. The teller of the best story would be given a free dinner by the cheerful host of the Tabard. In fact, the collection is incomplete and only 24 stories are told.



Structure

- 2 parts:
 1. The General Prologue
 2. 24 tales(two of the tales were written in prose, other tales in poetic form)



The Prologue (《总引》)

- The prologue provides a framework for the tales.
- It contains a group of vivid sketches of typical medieval figures.
- It provides a miniature (缩影) of the English society of Chaucer's time.

That is why Chaucer has been called "the founder of English realism."



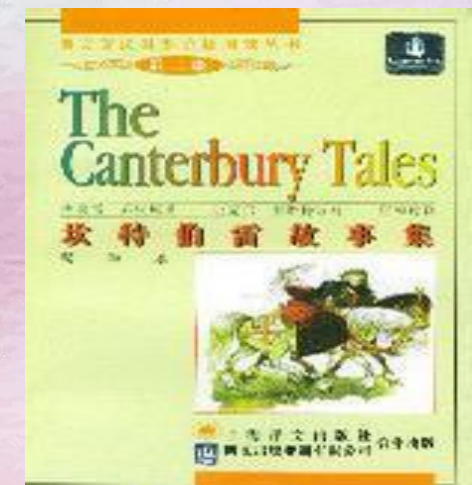
The Tales

- The structure of *The Canterbury Tales* is indebted to Boccaccio's *Decameron* (十日談) .
- Each of the narrator tells his tale in a peculiar manner, thus revealing his own views and character.
- The tales of the Wife of Bath, the Knight, the Pardoner, the Nun's Priest and the prologue are generally regarded as the best of the whole collection.



Appreciating *The Prologue*

- Heroic couplet
- London dialect
- Chaucer's humor and satire
- Realistic tone
- Asceticism & Humanist ideas



Questions

- What are **Chaucer's contributions** to English literature?
- For what do people go to Canterbury? What kind of people are they? How many tales are involved in this work? (time, place, character, motivation etc)
- What is the **significance** of *The Canterbury Tales*?
- Textual reading (refer to notes on page 31)
(p21 line1—18) (p24 There also was a Nun...p22 And lover, Amor Vincit omnia)

- What **season** is depicted at the beginning of the poem? What is the function?
- What are the detailed descriptions of the season? Try to find out some words.
- How was the **Nun** portrayed?(her name, facial features, her French, her manners, her jewelry, her clothes)
- Is the Nun a paradox(自相矛盾的人)? Why did the author depict her like this?
- How do you understand "a crowned A" and the Latin motto "Amor vincit omnia"?

The Canterbury Tales **General Prologue**

As soon as April pierces to the root
The drought of March, and bathes each bud and shoot
Through every vein of sap with gentle showers
From whose engendering liquor spring the flowers;
When zephyrs have breathed softly all about
Inspiring every wood and field to sprout,
And in the zodiac the youthful sun
His journey halfway through the Ram has run;
When little birds are busy with their song
Who sleep with open eyes the whole night long
Life stirs their hearts and tingles in them so,
Then off as pilgrims people long to go,
And palmers to set out for distant strands
And foreign shrines renowned in many lands.
And specially in England people ride
To Canterbury from every countryside
To visit there the blessed martyred saint
Who gave them strength when they were sick and faint.

《坎特伯雷故事集》 **总引**

- 夏雨给大地带来了喜悦，
- 送走了土壤干裂的三月，
- 沐浴着草木的丝丝茎络，
- 顿时百花盛开，生机勃勃。
- 西风轻吹留下清香缕缕，
- 田野复苏吐出芳草绿绿；
- 碧蓝的天空腾起一轮红日，
- 青春的太阳洒下万道金辉。
- 小鸟的歌喉多么清脆优美，
- 迷人的夏夜怎好安然入睡——
- 美丽的自然撩拨万物的心弦，
- 多情的鸟儿歌唱爱情的欣欢。
- 香客盼望拜谒圣徒的灵台，
- 僧侣立愿云游陌生的滨海。
- 信徒来自全国东西南北，
- 众人结伴奔向坎特伯雷，
- 去朝谢医病救世的恩主，
- 以缅怀大恩大德的圣徒。

In Southwark at the Tabard one spring day
It happened, as I stopped there on my way,
Myself a pilgrim with a heart devout
Ready for Canterbury to set out,
At night came all of twenty-nine assorted
Travellers, and to that same inn resorted,
Who by a turn of fortune chanced to fall
In fellowship together, and they were all
Pilgrims who had it in their minds to ride
Toward Canterbury. The stables doors were wide,
The rooms were large, and we enjoyed the best,
And shortly, when the sun had gone to rest,
I had so talked with each that presently
I was a member of their company
And promised to rise early the next day
To start, as I shall show, upon our way.

—translated by Theodore Morrison

- 那是一个初夏方临的日子，
- 我到泰巴旅店投宿歇息。
- 怀着一颗虔诚的赤子心，
- 我准备翌日出发去朝圣；
- 黄昏前后华灯初上时分，
- 旅店院里涌入许多客人；
- 二十九人来自各行各业，
- 不期而遇都到旅店过夜。
- 这些香客人人虔心诚意，
- 次日要骑马去坎特伯雷。
- 客房和马厩宽敞又洁净，
- 店主的招待周到而殷勤。
- 夕阳刚从地平线上消失，
- 众人同我已经相互结识；
- 大家约好不等鸡鸣就起床，
- 迎着熹微晨光赶早把路上。
- (范守义 译)

Characterization

- —vivid portrayal of individualized characters of the society and of all professions and social strata except the highest and the lowest
- shows respect for the two landed gentry, the plowman and the parson;
- satirized all the religious people except the parson;
- shows a growing sense of self-importance of the trades and towns people, reflecting the changing social status, esp. in towns and cities.

Social significance

- "The Canterbury tales" is more than a collection of true-to-life pictures. Taking the stand of the rising bourgeoisie, Chaucer affirms men and women's right to pursue their happiness on earth, opposes the dogma of asceticism (僧侶主義) preached by the church and attacks the corruption of the church and so on. As a forerunner of humanism, he praised man's energy, intellect, quick wit and love of life. Chaucer bears marks of humanism and anticipates a new era to come.

Chaucer's Contribution to English Literature

- Chaucer is regarded as the "father of English poetry" and has been called "the founder of English realism." He is the first great poet who wrote in the English language.
- He introduced from France the rhymed stanza of various types, especially the "heroic couplet" to English poetry.
heroic couplet (英雄双韵体/英雄对句)
- It contains two lines in iambic pentameter with the same end rhyme, or a rhymed pair of iambic pentameter lines.
- His masterpiece "The Canterbury Tales" is one of the monumental works in English literature.

Recommendations

- <http://www.librarius.com/cantales.htm>
- 提供《坎特伯雷故事》的注释电子文本及词汇表
- <http://www.siue.edu/CHAUCER>
- 提供《坎特伯雷故事》的中古英语原文及现代英语译本，诗文朗诵、注解、关于乔叟的论文以及其他相关站点链接。

Test

- The earliest settlers of the British Isles were Celts, who were invaded by three conquests the Romans, the Anglo-Saxons and the Normans.
- The Anglo-Saxons brought the Germanic language and culture to England. Before their migration from the continent the Anglo-Saxons were still in the tribal society, after their settlement in Britain, feudal society came into being.
- The Canterbury Tales was written by Geoffrey Chaucer in the last 13 years of his life. (大连外国语学院2006年考研题)
- Beowulf is the national epic of the English people. (国际关系学院2007考研题)
- After the fall of the Roman Empire (410A.D.) and the withdrawal of Roman troops from Albion, the aboriginal Celtic population of the larger part of the island was soon conquered and almost totally exterminated by the Teutonic tribes of Angles, Saxons and Jutes. (北京交通大学2006年考研题)

7. *Beowulf* (北京航空航天大学 2007 年考研题)

II. Fill in the blanks with proper information.

1. *The Canterbury Tales* was written by _____ in the last _____ years of his life. (大连外国语学院 2006 年考研题)
2. After the fall of the _____ (410 A. D.) and the withdrawal of Roman troops from Albion, the aboriginal Celtic population of the larger part of the island was soon conquered and almost totally exterminated by the Teutonic tribes of Angles, Saxons and Jutes. (北京交通大学 2006 年考研题)
3. *Beowulf* is the national epic of the _____. (国际关系学院 2007 年考研题)
4. The most prevalent kind of literature in feudal England was _____. It was a long composition, sometimes in verse, sometimes in prose, describing the life and adventure of a noble hero.
5. The old English poetry can be divided into two groups: the _____ poetry and the _____ poetry.
6. The history of British literature begins in the _____ century.
7. *The Canterbury Tales* contains the _____ and 24 tales, and it leaves unfinished.
8. Chaucer employed the _____ couplet in his masterpiece *The Canterbury Tales*.
9. The _____ century has traditionally been described as the barren age in British literature.
10. In the 15th century, there is only one important prose writer called _____. He wrote *Le Morte d'Arthur*.
11. After the _____ Conquest, feudal system was established in English society.
12. _____ is the oldest poem in the English language, and also the oldest surviving epic in the English language.
13. _____ is the first known religious poet of England. He is known as the the Father of English Song.

III. Multiple Choices.

Directions: In each question there are four choices. Decide which one would be the best answer to the question or to complete the sentence the best.

1. Which of the following is not included in the three major undercurrents of British literature? (吉林大学 2005 年考研题)
A. The Bible
B. *Beowulf*
C. *Greek and Roman Mythology*
D. *The Legends of Robin Hood*
2. Geoffrey Chaucer's contribution to English poetry lies chiefly in the fact that he introduced from France the rhymed stanzas of various types, especially what was later to be called _____. (吉林大学 2005 年考研题)
A. the alliterative verse
B. the ballad
C. the heroic couplet
D. the blank verse
3. Geoffrey Chaucer, "the father of English poetry", is one of the greatest _____ poets of England. (北京第二外国语学院 2006 年考研题)
A. lyrical
B. narrative
C. sonnet
D. dramatic
4. The piece of work that is commonly considered to be the beginning of the English literature is _____. (吉林大学 2006 年考研题)
A. *Beowulf*
B. *The Canterbury Tales*
C. *Le Morte d'Arthur*
D. *Paradise Lost*
5. The book most widely recognized as the best Arthurian story was done _____. (南开大学 2006 年考研题)
A. in free verse
B. as a group of ballads
C. in prose form
D. partly in verse, partly in metrical form

6. Generally speaking, it is in _____ that the English Literary history starts. (北京第二外国语学院 2007 年考研题)
 A. 6th C. B. C. B. 5th C. B. C. C. 6th C. A. D. D. 5th C. A. D.
7. Knights of the Round Table are characters serving _____ in legends, which depict chivalry in early literature. (北京第二外国语学院 2007 年考研题)
 A. Sir Lancelot B. Sir Godwin C. King Arthur D. King Henry VII
8. Geoffrey Chaucer, regarded as the first famous English poet in the history of English literature, wrote the following except _____. (天津外国语学院 2007 年考研题)
 A. *The Canterbury Tales* B. *The House of Fame*
 C. *The Parliament of Fowles* D. *Boethius*
9. _____ is a pagan poem which portraits a panoramic picture of the tribal society in British Island. (北京第二外国语学院 2008 年考研题)
 A. *The Legends of King Arthur* B. *Beowulf*
 C. *The Tall Tales* D. *The Canterbury Tales*
10. The history of English literature begins in the _____ century. (北京第二外国语学院 2009 年考研题)
 A. 7th B. 6th C. 5th D. 4th
11. Geoffrey Chaucer planned originally to have each of the pilgrims tell _____ stories on the way to Canterbury and the same number of stories on the way back in his famous *The Canterbury Tales*. (天津外国语学院 2009 年考研题)
 A. 1 B. 2 C. 3 D. 4
12. Although _____ was essentially a medieval writer; he bore marks of humanism and anticipated a new era of literature to come.
 A. William Langland B. John Gower C. Geoffrey Chaucer D. Edmund Spenser

IV. Literary Comprehension and Analysis.

1.

Whan that Aprill with his shoures soote
 The droghte of March hath perced to the roote,
 And bathed every veyne in swich licour
 Of which vertu engendred is the flour;
 Whan Zephirus eek with his sweete breeth
 Inspired hath in every holt and heeth
 The tendre croppes, and the yonge sonne
 Hath in the Ram his halve cours yronne,
 And smale fowles maken melodye,
 That slepen al the nyght with open ye
 (So priketh hem nature in hir corages),
 Thanne longen folk to goon on pilgrimages.
 (*The General Prologue*, 1 - 12)

Questions:

- (1) Identify the author and the literary work of the selected passage.
- (2) What is expressed in the selected passage? Give a brief analysis.

2.

Thus swyved was this carpenteris wyf,
 For al his kepyng and his jalousye;

The Fifteenth Century (1400-1550)

- Historical Background:
- A. The Hundred Years' War (omitted)
- B. The War of the Roses (civil wars between two families—Lancaster and York), Tudor Dynasty
- C. the discovery of America and the new sea routes
- D. Reformation of the church (Henry VIII)

Popular Ballads

- It is a folk song or orally transmitted poem telling in a direct and dramatic manner some popular stories usually derived from a tragic incident in local history or legend. The story is told simply, impersonally, and often with vivid dialogue.
- ❌ Ballads(民谣) are anonymous narrative songs that have been preserved by oral transmission. (Robin Hood)
- Features of ballad (see page 38)



Early English Plays

- The Influence of Ancient Greece and Rome
- In the 14th century, mystery plays and miracle plays developed.
- Until in the 16th century, drama began to flourish.

Homework

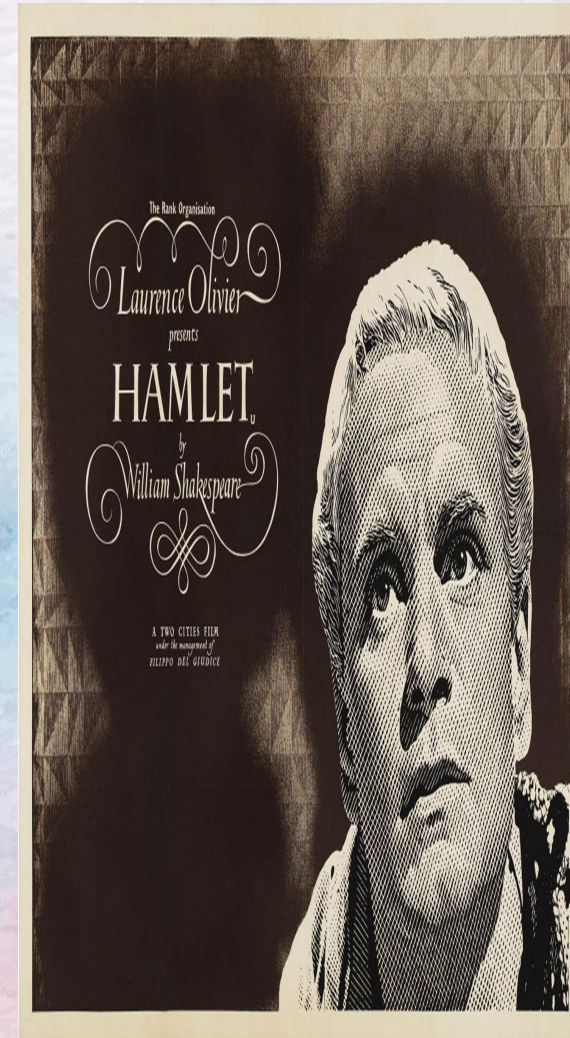
- What are the important historical backgrounds of the English Renaissance period?
- What are the main ideas of English Renaissance?
- Try to know more about William Shakespeare (his life, his writing career)
- Works appreciation:
- Sonnet 18/sonnet 29
- The Merchant of Venice
- Hamlet (Act III, Scene 1)

Detailed Questions for the Text

- Sonnet 18:
- To whom is this poem addressed?
- How is this poem rhymed? (poetic form)
- What are the speaker's ideas of the images of summer and darling bud? And the beautiful appearance of the beauty?
- Why does the speaker say that "but thy eternal summer shall not fade"?

Hamlet

- How do you understand "To be, or not to be, that is the question"?
- How do you understand "To die, To Sleep"?
- What kind of a person is Hamlet?
- What is the tone of this scene?



Internet Resources

- [Literature: An Introduction](http://fajardo-acosta.com/worldlist/intro.htm) ([//fajardo-acosta.com/worldlist/intro.htm](http://fajardo-acosta.com/worldlist/intro.htm))
- [An Online Companion to the Norton Introduction to Literature](http://www.wwnorton.com/introlit) ([www. wwnorton.com/introlit](http://www.wwnorton.com/introlit))
- [The Bedford Introduction to Literature](http://www.bedfordstmartins.com/meyer/bedintrolit)
- (www.bedfordstmartins.com/meyer/bedintrolit)
- [Classics at the Online Literature Library](http://www.literature.org/authors) (www.literature.org/authors)
- [The Literature Network](http://www.online-literature.com/author-index.php)([//www.online-literature.com/author-index. php](http://www.online-literature.com/author-index.php))

Enjoy Web-Site-Seeing

- [British Literature Timeline](http://www.studyguide.org/brit_lit_timeline.htm)
(www.studyguide.org/brit_lit_timeline.htm)
- [Norton Anthology of British Literature](http://www.britannia.com/arts/literature/)
(www.britannia.com/arts/literature/)
- [Norton Anthology - Audio Companion](http://www.wwnorton.com/nael/welcome.htm)(www.wwnorton.com/nael/welcome.htm)
- [Listen to English literature](http://eleaston.com/lit_audio.htm)
([//eleaston.com/lit_audio.htm](http://eleaston.com/lit_audio.htm))
- [Nobel e-Museum](http://www.nobel.se/literature/laureates)(www.nobel.se/literature/laureates)
- 省级精品课程<<英美文学史及作品选读>>
<http://w475089.s178.ufhosted.com/msg.php/790.htm>
|

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Free literature for your device.

The image features a soft, watercolor-style background in shades of pink, purple, and blue. In the center is a white circle with a thin purple border. Surrounding this circle are several watercolor butterflies in various colors, including purple, pink, yellow, and teal. Some butterflies are larger and more detailed, while others are smaller and more delicate. The overall composition is artistic and gentle.

THANK
YOU