

Crash Course-British Literature Part-5





QUIZ!

**There is a reference of
MALVERN HILLS in**

- 1. Piers the Plowman**
- 2. Morte D Arthur**
- 3. The Canterbury Tales**
- 4. The Christ**



QUIZ!

**The expression A FAIRE FELDE
FUL OF FOLKE appears in**

- 1. The Canterbury Tales**
- 2. Piers the Plowman**
- 3. Morte D Arthur**
- 4. Pardoner's Tale**



QUIZ!

**Richard, the Redeless - was
written by**

- 1. William Langland**
- 2. Chaucer**
- 3. Malory**
- 4. Gower**



QUIZ!

**Which work deals with the
Peasant's Revolt of 1381?**

- 1. Vox Clamantis**
- 2. Confessio Amantis**
- 3. The House of Fame**
- 4. Legende of Good Women**



QUIZ!

One of the first Englishmen to challenge the authority of the Catholic Church was:

- 1. John Wyclif**
- 2. Chaucer**
- 3. Malory**
- 4. None of the above**



QUIZ!

Who is known as the father of English prose?

- 1. John Gower**
- 2. John Wycliffe**
- 3. Chaucer**
- 4. Langland**



QUIZ!

Regement of Princes - is a work of

- 1. John Lydgate**
- 2. Thomas Occleve**
- 3. John Walton**
- 4. Alexander Barclay**



QUIZ!

Which of the following poets wrote a famous poem mourning the death of Chaucer?

- 1. Occleve in THE GOVERNAIL OF PRINCES**
- 2. Lydgate in FALLES OF PRINCES**
- 3. James I of Scotland in THE KING'S QUAIR**
- 4. William Dunbar in THE THISTLE AND THE ROSE**



QUIZ!

Who translated the work of the German poet Sebastian Brant entitled **THE SHIP OF FOOLS?**

- 1. Alexander Barclay**
- 2. Thomas Occleve**
- 3. John Skelton**
- 4. None of the above**



QUIZ!

**The use of the pastoral of satire
for court life was first used by**

- 1. Barclay**
- 2. Stephen Hawes**
- 3. John Skelton**
- 4. None**

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The Artificial Disciples of Chaucer:

An important cause of the barrenness was the lack of understanding among the true but unreal followers of Chaucer. His followers could not carry the traditions of the master with acute senses. Chaucer's accurate and sure versification ceased to be understood soon after his death. His followers soon made amass of the master's great metrical art.

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The fifteenth century society was much entangled into wars and other activities. The noble families due to these wars came to an end, on which patronage the poets were related on. All men were indulged to earn their bread in this emergency period. This was the emergency period for literature, but exception may be made of prose which are only scattered. So all the facilities of the becoming artists were seized in the age.

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The Restraint of Thought:

The freedom of free-thinking was checked during this period and the melancholic thought of earning bread was the substitute. The freethinking now became a rare. Although Wycliffe, a versatile literary figure, made a great attempt to reform the human thinking and meditation but religion has made cold it, even the powers and authority also crushed the free thinking. A literature cannot grow in an atmosphere of cramping inertia. In such an atmosphere an artist cannot say whatever he wants to say. So such atmosphere pressed the imaginations and spirits of the poets. In true democracy a literature always grows. Monarchy is an antagonist of literature The 15th century was not an exception to it.

The Scottish Chaucerians

King James I (1394-1437)

- The Kingis Quair
 - Written in rhyme royal
 - His love for the Lady Jane Beaufort- daughter of Duke of Somerset- the cousin of Henry V

Age of Chaucer

Robert Henryson (1429-1508)

- The Testament of Cresseid
 - Continuation of Chaucer's Troilus and Criseyde
- Orpheus and Eurydice
 - Adaptation from Boethius

Age of Chaucer

William Dunbar (1460-1530)

- The chief of the Scottish Chaucerian poets
- Dance of the Seven deadly sins
 - Translated into English by W H Auden and Chester Kallman
 - Deals with the sins of lust, gluttony, greed, pride, sorrow/ despair/despondency, wrath, vain glory and sloth

Age of Chaucer

Gavin Douglas (1474- 1522)

- Aeneid - translation of Virgil

Age of Chaucer

Prose of the 15th century (1400-1557)

William Caxton (1422-1491)

- First English printer
- Translator
- The Dictes and Saayengis of the Philosophers (1477)- 1st book printed in England
- William Caxton: A Quincentenary Biography (1976)- a detailed and scholarly work by G. D. Painter



Sir Thomas More (1478-1535)

- English Socrates
- Influences: Erasmus, Colet, other humanists of the period
- Utopia:
 - Description of his imaginary ideal world
 - The true prologue to the Renaissance
 - The first monument of modern socialism
 - Utopia - the kingdom of nowhere
 - Originally written in Latin (1516)
 - Translated into English by Ralph Robinson- 1551
 - Source of inspiration- The Praise of Folly by Erasmus
- The Historie of Richard III
 - Unfinished
 - Best example of humanist historiography in England and the first in English

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Sir Thomas Malory

- A translator and romancer
- Caxton printed Malory's work
- Morte D' Arthur
 - Prose romance based on Arthurian legend
 - Tennyson's Idylls of the King based on Morte D' Arthur

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Literature of the Early Renaissance in England

William Tyndale

- English New Testament (1525)

Miles Coverdale

- The Complete English Bible (1535)

Roger Ascham (1515-1568)

- Toxophilus or School of Shooting (1545)
- The Schoolmaster- educational treatise; published by his widow 2 years after his death

Sir Thomas Wyatt (1503-1542)

- Poet, courtier
- Introduced Sonnet into English
- Introduced Terza Rima
- Translated and imitated Petrarchan sonnet
- Rhyme scheme: abba abba cddc ee
- 96 love poems appeared posthumously in Tottel's Miscellany (1557)

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Henry Howard (1516-1547)

- Earl of Surrey
- Introduced the Blank verse

Tottel's Miscellany

- First printed anthology of English lyrics
- Richard Tottel- a printer, stationer, assisted in the compiling of the anthology
- Historically important collection of 271 poems
- Published on June 5, 1557

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The Development of Drama:

- Grew out of Liturgy of the Church
- Performance- in the sacred buildings
- Actors- Priests
- Language- Latin and French
- Public holiday dedicated to drama
- Corpus Christi plays- collective mysteries- described the whole history of the fall of the man and his redemption
- Four cycles:
 - The Chester Cycle (25 plays)
 - The Coventry Cycle (42 plays)
 - The Wakefield Cycle (31 plays)- Towneley Cycle
 - The York Cycle (48 plays)

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- The Miracle play
 - A miracle play is a drama that recounts the life of a saint, a miracle performed by Christ or a miracle performed by God through a saint's faith or actions; some but not all of these stories from the Bible
 - Originally developed within medieval Christian church and written in Latin, miracle plays served as a dramatized part of the liturgical service
 - Scenes or episodes were staged by local religious and trade guilds on separate wagons
 - Date back to 12th century
 - Examples:
 - Harrowing of Hell
 - St. Nicholas
 - Rising of Lazarus
 - (from the Wakefield Cycle)

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The Mystery Play

- The Mystery plays or corpus christi cycles were long cyclic dramas of creation, fall and redemption of mankind or other biblical events
- They were very often based on the passion and death of Jesus Christ
- They were financed and performed by craft guilds and staged on wagons in the street and squares of the town
- Of these, The Second Shepherd's Play is one of the masterpieces of medieval English Literature

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- **The Morality Play**
 - Morality plays were allegorical dramas; depicted the progress of a single character from the cradle to grave
 - The single character represented the whole of mankind
 - The other dramatis personae might include God and Evil, Vices and Virtues, Death, Penance, Mercy, etc are abstractions which are personified
 - An interesting and varied collection of Moralities are called Macro plays
 - Everyman, A Dutch play on the subject of coming of death is famous in this field
 - Examples:
 - The Castle of Perseverance
 - Wisdom
 - Mankind

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- Interlude
 - The interlude is a short play or diverting entertainment designed for presentation either between the acts of the Miracle or Morality plays or for the performance in the intervals at banquets or other important festivities
 - It is considered to be the creation of John Heywood
 - Forerunner of regular drama
 - Under the patronage of Henry VIII

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John Heywood (1497-1575):

- His wife: Elizabeth Rastell niece of Sir Thomas More
- Playwright whose short dramatic interludes
- The Four P's (1544): Palmer, Pardoner, Pedlar, Potheary
- The Play of the Weather (1533)- Jupiter takes the conflicting opinions of various persons regarding the kind of weather to be supplied

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The Beginnings of Regular Comedy and Tragedy

Nicholas Udall (1505-56)

- He translated selections from Terence
- Wrote Latin plays on sacred subjects
- He figures in Ford's novel *The Fifth Queen* (1906)
- **Ralph Roister Doister (1550)**
 - The earliest known English comedy
 - The play represents the courting of the widow Christian Custance, who is betrothed to Gawin Goodlucke, an absent merchant, by Roister, a boastful simpleton, instigated thereto by the mischievous Mathewe Merygreeke.
 - Roister is repulsed and beaten by Custance and her maids; and Goodlucke, after being deceived by false reports, is reconciled to her
 - The play shows similarity to the comedies of Plautus and Terence

Thomas Sackville (1536-1608)

- A Mirror for Magistrates
- **Gorboduc**
 - In collaboration with Thomas Norton
 - Gorboduc or Ferrex and Porrex
 - One of the earliest English tragedies
 - The first three acts are by Thomas Norton (1532-84) and the last two by Sackville
 - Acted in the Inner Temple Hall on Twelfth Night 1561
 - The play is constructed on the model of a Senecan tragedy
 - The subject is taken from the legendary chronicles of Britain
 - First use of blank verse
 - Gorboduc and Videna are king and queen, Ferrex and Porrex are their two sons and the dukes of Cornwall, Albany, Logres and Cumberland are the other chief characters
 - Ferrex and Porrex quarrel over the division of the kingdom. Ferrex is killed by Porrex and Porrex is murdered in revenge by his mother
 - The Duke of Albany tries to seize the kingdom and civil war breaks out
 - There is no action on the stage
 - The events are narrated in blank verse
 - Sidney- Defence of Poetry “full of stately speeches and well sounding phrases”
 - The legend of Gorboduc is told by Geoffrey of Monmouth and figures in Spenser’s Faerie Queene, where Gorboduc is called Gorbogud

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Comedies:

- **Gammer Gurton's Needle (1575)**

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