



Memento Mori

Medieval

English

Literature

Medieval Genres

Epic Poem

Morality Play

Romance

Ballad

Fable

Frame Story

Beowulf

Everyman

Sir Gawain – King Arthur

Robin Hood

The Fox and the Wolf

Canterbury Tales

BEOWULF



Old English/6th century

Set in Scandinavia

Epic poem

Alliteration

Oral tradition

Hwæt! We Gardena in geardagum,
þeodcyninga, þrym gefrunon,
hu ða æpelingas ellen fremedon.
Oft Scyld Scefing sceapena þreatum,

monegum mægþum, meodosetla ofteah,
egsode eorlas. Syððan ærest wearð
feasceaft funden, he þæs frofre gebad,
weox under wolcnum, weorðmyndum þah,
oðþæt him æghwylc þara ymbsittendra

ofer hronrade hyran scolde,
gomban gyldan. þæt wæs god cyning!
Ðæm eafera wæs æfter cenned,
geong in geardum, þone god sende
folce to frofre; fyrenðearfe ongeat

þe hie ær drugon aldorlease
lange hwile. Him þæs liffrea,
wuldres wealdend, woroldare forgeaf;
Beowulf wæs breme (blæd wide sprang),
Scyldes eafera Scedelandum in.



700 p... b... on h...
 h... h... t... p... p...
 p... c... e... p...
 on onzan d... m...
 s... on h... h... p...
 f... b... s... s...
 e... u... p... o...
 n... h... p...
 h... p...
 s... p...
 p... p...
 d... p...
 b... p... xxxii
Nealles... p... h...
 c... p... p...
 p... a... p...
 h... b... h...
 p... p...
 s... s... s...
 d... p...

Beowulf – 6th century

FOKKE & SUKKE
 HEBBAN OLLA MEDE OPGEZOPAN



In p... p... m...
 p... p...
 p... p...
 p... p...
 p... p...
 p... p...
 p... p...
 p... p...

Hebbun olla vogala-11th century





Hrothgar's mead hall



THE LANDING OF BEOWULF IN HROTHGAR'S REALM



Beowulf rips off Grendel's arm

Everyman



There begynneth a treatyse how þe hye
fader of heuen sendeth dethe to so-
mon euery creature to come and
gyue a counte of theyr lyues in
this worlde, and is in maner
of a morall playe.



Morality Play

Morality play

Allegory

Everyman = Mankind

Christian Salvation

Memento Mori

Purgatory

Elkerlijc/Jedermann

God
Death
Messenger
Fellowship
Kindred
Good Deeds

Everyman
Knowledge
Confession
Beauty
Strenght
Doctor

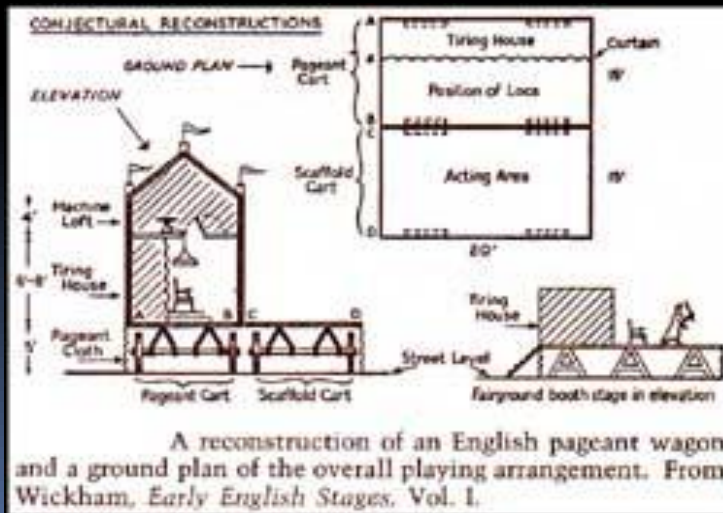


Death Summons Everyman

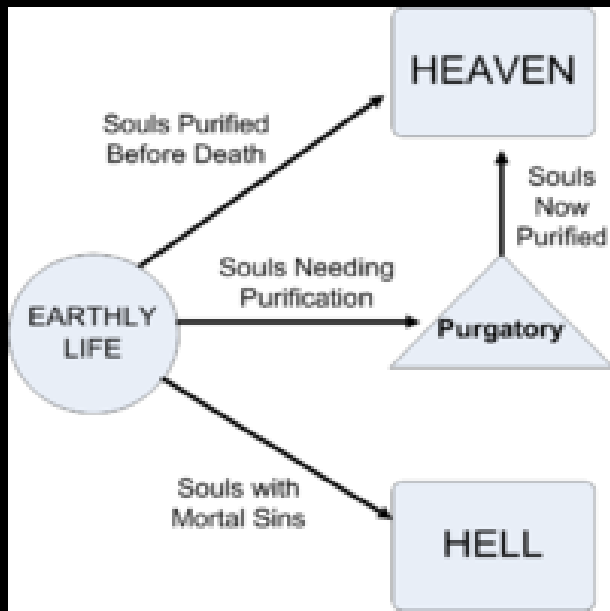


"INTO THY HANDES, LORDE, MY SOULE I COMMENDE."

Everyman dies:
 "Into thy handes, Lorde, my solle I
 commende."



Pageant wagon



Purgatory

lust	chastity
gluttony	temperance
greed	charity
sloth	diligence
wrath	forgiveness
envy	kindness
pride	humility

7 deadly sins

7 virtues

The Canterbury Tales



Geoffrey Chaucer

1343-1400

Frame story

Pilgrimage

Thomas Becket

Individuality of characters

The Knight's Tale

Arcite-Palamon-Theseus

The Prologue



¶ **W**hat dymos patras dante post aspera gentis
¶ **W**hich dymos patras dante post aspera gentis

¶ **W**hich dymos patras dante post aspera gentis

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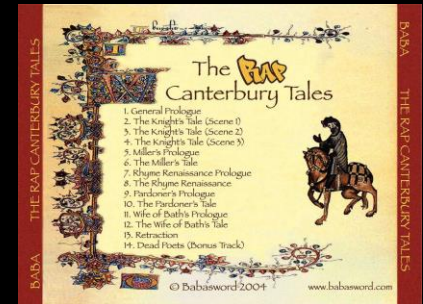




Some of the Pilgrims

Knight	Squire
Miller	Franklin
Reeve	Physician
Wife of Bath	Pardoner
Friar	Shipman
Summoner	Monk
Clerk	Sir Thomas
Merchant	Prioress

Canterbury Rap



Canterbury Cathedral

Thomas Becket 1118 – 1170 AD



Murder of Beckett
29 December, 1170 AD



Consilium de remedio aurore...

Here bigynmeth Chaucers tale of welbeck

A yong man called welbeus myghty a
wop on his wyf that called was london
shuch that called was sophie. vpon
he for his desport is sent in to the feeld
his wyf and ceit his doghter hath he left in wyth his
the dore euen faste yshete. thre of hys olde foes
and gotten laddres to the Galles of his hous and by
been entred and betten his wyf and sounded his
fyue mortal woundes in fyue sondry places. this
hy feet. in hy handes. in hy eyes. in hy nose. and
and lesten hy for deed and senten away. **W**ha
tonqued was in to his hous and saugh al this mest
was man rentynge his clothes. gan to wepe and
ce his wyf as ferforth as she souste. bi doghte hym o
for to stynte but nat for thy he gan to crye and ce
the woore. **T**his noble wyf remembred hi
sentence of Prude in his booke that cleped is the ven
Selye as he saith he is a fool that destrouybeth the woode
in...

Sir Gawain and the Green Knight



Chivalric Romance

late 14th century

chivalrous adventures

romantic love

single central character
a young hero

courage put to the test

knight achieves goal

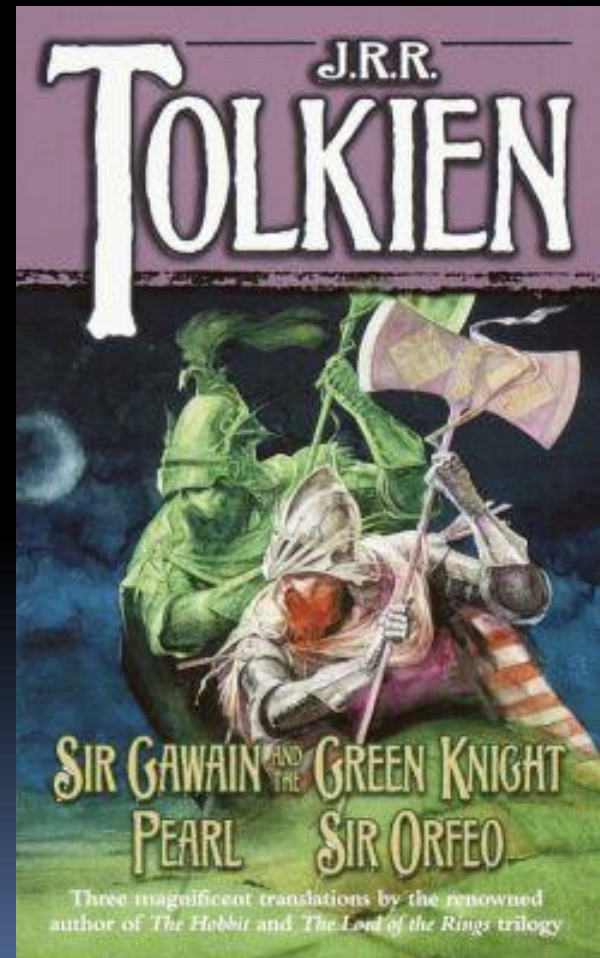
quest

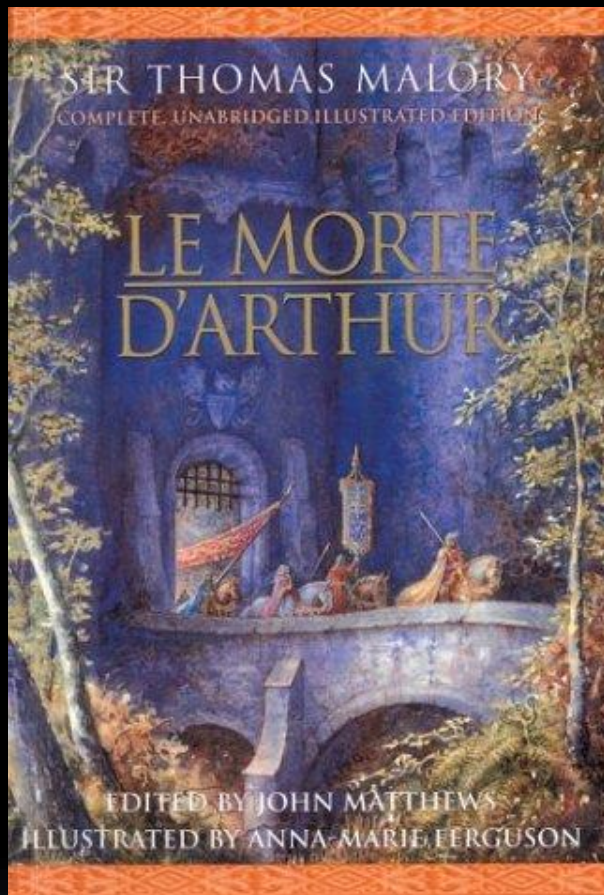




Lady Bercilak tempts Sir Gawain

Tolkien's translation





Le Morte d'Arthur

Sir Thomas Mallory



King Arthur

Chivalry

code of honour for knights

protect the weak

strong and disciplined

loyal, generous, noble

always tell the truth

respect honour of women

to fear God

no financial reward

Courtly love

a stylized relationship

forbidden, secretive

royal palace/court

etiquette

exchange of gifts

platonic love

extramarital

escape from noble
marriage



The Knights of the Round Table



Holy Grail

Excalibur?



I am a knight





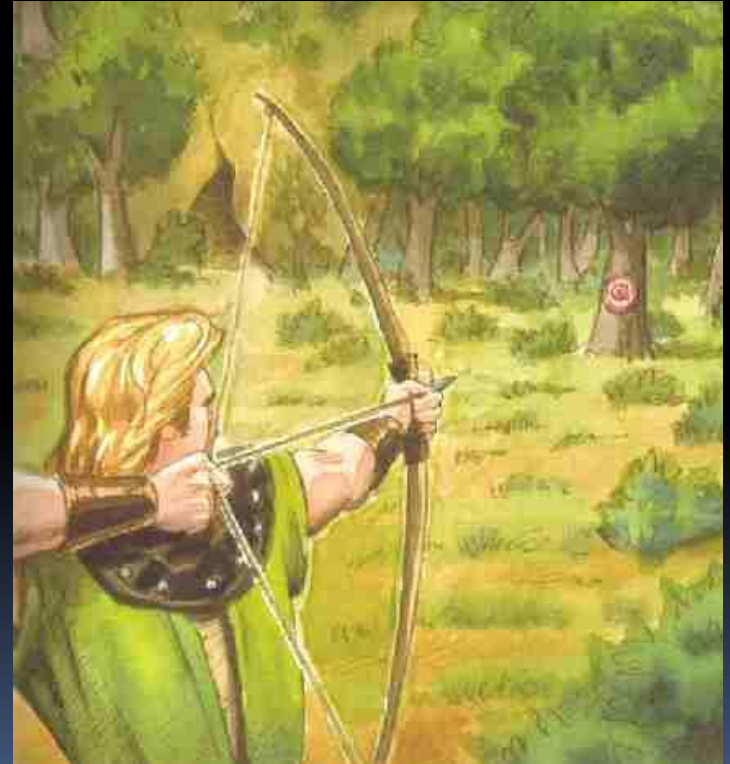
King Arthur dies, ...



... but the legend lives on.

King Arthur, 2004

ROBIN HOOD



Ballad

improvisational art form

popular in 13th – 14th century

oral tradition-uneducated

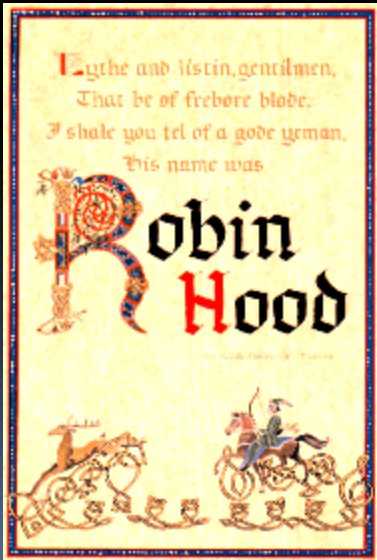
to express opinions

tells a story in simple language

betrayal, revenge, lost love

no detailed descriptions

four line stanzas



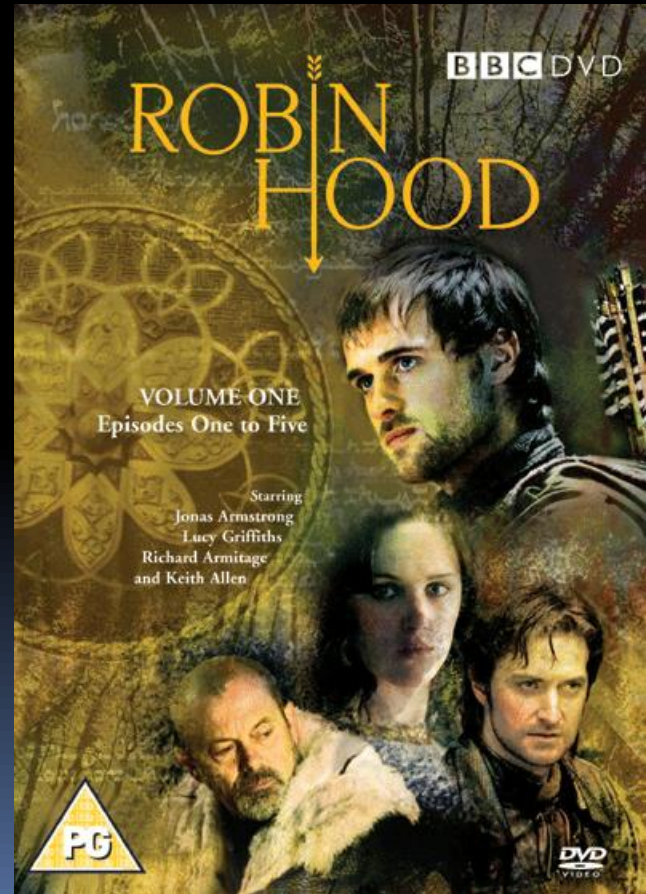




Grave of Robin Hood at Kirkles



Olivia de Havilland and Errol Flynn



The Most Delectable
HISTORY
OF
Reynard the Fox.

Newly Corrected and Purged, from all grossness
in Phrase and Matter.

Augmented and Enlarged with sundry Excellent
Morals and Expositions upon every several Chapter.

To which may now be added a Second Part of the said History:
As also the Shifts of *Reynardine* the Son of *Reynard* the FOX,
Together with his Life and Death, &c.



LONDON, Printed by T. Ilive, for Edward Brewster, at the
Sign of the Crane in St. Pauls Church-Yard. 1701.

Fable



Reynard in the Well

The Fox and the Wolf

allegory - metaphor

for common people (like ballads)

personification of animals

didactic - moralistic

everyday human world

familiar settings

recognisable characters

critical of society



Reynard the Fox Victorian Magic Lantern Slides



Here the ppp ends

and

your work starts

Memento Mori – Medieval English Literature



Beowulf

- Epic poem
- Beowulf fights Grendel
- Beowulf's death



Everyman

- Allegory
- Morality play



Canterbury Tales

- Frame story
- Prologue and Wife of Bath's Tale/Knight's Tale



Sir Gawain and the Green Knight

- Chivalry
- Visit of Green Knight
- Tests of Sir Gawain



Le Morte d'Arthur

- Legend
- Prologue
- One of the books/stories



Robin Hood

- Ballad
- Main characters

