

CONTENTS

PART ONE

Section One

ANGLO-SAXON OR OLD ENGLISH PERIOD

	page
Beowulf (c. 700)	4
Widsith	38
The Wanderer ..	43
The Seafarer ..	47
Deor's Lament	51
The Wife's Lament	53
The Lover's Message	55
The Ruined City	57
Genesis B	59

BEDA VENERABILIS (673-735)

Bede's Autobiography	65
Bede's Death	66
The Story of Caedmon	67
Caedmon's Hymn	70

CYNEWULF

Elene	72
The Dream of the Rood	79
Charms	84
Riddles	86

ALFRED THE GREAT (849-901)

Preface to the "Cura Pastoralis" of St. Gregory the Great	88
Wulfstan's Narrative	90
The Battle of Brunanburh, 937	92
The Battle of Maldon, 991	97

A Colloquy on The Occupations	102
-------------------------------------	-----

Section Two

MIDDLE-ENGLISH PERIOD

page

The Anglo-Saxon Chronicle (c. 1154)	110
The Poema Morale (c. 1170)	112

ORRM (fl. 1200)

Orrmulum	113
----------------	-----

LAYAMON (fl. 1205)

From the "Brut"	116
The Ancrene Riwe (c. 1225)	118
The Owl and the Nightingale (c. 1250)	120
Cursor Mundi (c. 1300)	124

MEDIEVAL LYRICS

Cuckoo Song (c. 1250)	126
Alison (c. 1300)	127
Ubi sunt qui ante nos fuerunt (c. 1350)	128
The Pearl (c. 1370)	129

JOHN DE TRIVISA (1326-1412)

Higden's Polychronicon	135
------------------------------	-----

JOHN WYCLIF (c. 1320-1384)

The Prodigal Son	139
------------------------	-----

JOHN BALL (d. 1381)

John Ball's Preaching (from Froissart)	139
John Ball's Letter to the Peasants of Essex, 1381	141

WILLIAM LANGLAND (c. 1332-c. 1400)

Prologue to Piers Plowman: The Field Full of Folk	142
A Fair Field Full of Folk	143
The Vision of Piers Counsel	146

GEOFFREY CHAUCER (c. 1340-1400)

Prologue to the "Canterbury Tales"	150
--	-----

MEDIEVAL BALLADS

How Robin Hood Rescued the Widow's Sons	173
The Ancient Ballad of Chevy Chase	176
Sir Patrick Spence	184
The Douglas Tragedy	185
Thomas the Rhymer	188
Edward, Edward	189
Sweet William's Ghost	191
Everyman	193

WILLIAM CAXTON (1422?-1491?)

Preface to "The Booke of Eneydos"	207
Preface to Malory's "Morte Darthur", 1485	208

SIR THOMAS MALORY (c. 1394-1471)

Le Morte Darthur	213
------------------------	-----

PASTON LETTERS (1440-1486)

A Young Lady Meets her Suitor, 1440	215
Margaret Paston as a Loving Wife, 1443	216
Margaret Paston's Indignation against her Son, 1471	217

Section Three

THE RENAISSANCE

THOMAS MORE (1478-1535)

From Utopia: The Sheep of the Enclosures Devour the Food	221
--	-----

THOMAS WYATT (1503-1542)

The Lover Compareth his State to a Ship	225
Description of the Contrarious Passions in a Lover	226
Farewell to the Faithless	226

HENRY HOWARD, EARL OF SURREY (1517-1547)

Description of Spring	228
The Means to Attain a Happy Life	229
Vow to Love Faithfully Howsoever He Be Rewarded	229

SIR PHILIP SIDNEY (1554-1586)

Pamela's Prayer	231
	297

Ring out your Bells	232
My True-Love	233

page

JOHN LYL Y (1554-1606)

A Cooling Card for Philautus and all Fond Lovers	234
--	-----

EDMUND SPENSER (c. 1552-1599)

Epithalamium	238
Sonnets from Amoretti	243

THOMAS DEKKER (1570?-1641?)

How a Gallant Should Behave Himself in a Playhouse	244
--	-----

ROBERT GREENE (c. 1560-1592)

To Gentlemen Actors	246
Attack on Shakespeare	247

CHRISTOPHER MARLOWE (1564-1593)

The Passionate Shepherd to his Love	249
The Tragical History of Doctor Faustus, Sc. III, Sc. XIV	250

WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE (1564-1616)

The Life of William Shakespeare	260
Reflection on his Epoch	261
From Venus and Adonis	264

Sonnets:

2. When forty winters shall besiege thy brow	266
55. Not marble, not the gilded monuments	266
66. Tired with all these, for restful death I cry	267
130. My mistress' eyes are nothing like the sun	267

Song from the Plays:

You spotted snakes with double tongue	268
Tell me where is fancy bred	269
Sigh no more, ladies, sigh no more	269
Under the greenwood tree	270
Blow, blow, thou winter wind	270
It was a lover and his lass	271
O mistress mine! where are you roaming	271
Come away, come away, death	272
When that I was and a little tiny boy	272
The poor soul sat sighing by a sycamore tree	273
Hark, hark! the lark at heaven's gate sings	273

	page
Come into these yellow sands	273
Full fathom five thy father lies	274
Where the bee sucks, there suck I	274
Frederick Engels on Shakespeare	275
Karl Marx on the All-Revolutionizing Power of Money as condemned by Shakespeare and Goethe	275
Karl Marx on Shakespearizing or Schillerizing	277

BEN JONSON (1573-1637)

The Comedy of Humours enters the Stage	279
Volpone or the Fox. Act, Sc. 1	280
Song: to Celia	288
Simplex Munditiis	284
To Celia: Drink to Me only with Thine Eyes	284
That Women are but Men's Shadows	285
To the Memory of My Beloved Master William Shakespeare	285
De Shakespeare Nostrati	288

FRANCIS BACON (1561-1626)

From Essays:

Of the True Greatness of Kingdoms and Estates	289
Of Studies	290
From Novum Organum	291
From New Atlantis	293