CONTENTS

Additional Resources *xiii*
Preface *xv*
Acknowledgments *xxi*
About the Editors *xxvii*

The Middle Ages

Illustration. Laurence, Prior of Durham, depicted as a scribe 2
THE MIDDLE AGES AT A GLANCE 3

INTRODUCTION 7
THE CELTS 8
THE GERMANIC MIGRATIONS 9
PAGAN AND CHRISTIAN: TENSION AND CONVERGENCE 11
ORAL POETRY, WRITTEN MANUSCRIPTS 13
Illustration. Saint John, from *The Book of Kells* 14
THE NORMAN CONQUEST 15
Illustration. The Three Living and the Three Dead, from *The De Lisle Psalter* 16
SOCIAL AND RELIGIOUS ORDER 17
Illustration. The Murder of Thomas Becket, from *Historia Major* 19
CONTINENTAL AND INSULAR CULTURES 19
WOMEN, COURTLINESS, AND COURTLY LOVE 22
Illustration. Grotesques and a Courtly Scene, from the *Ormesby Psalter* 23
Illustration. A Knight, early 14th-century rubbing 24
ROMANCE 25
THE RETURN OF ENGLISH 25
Color Plate 1. First page of the Gospel of Matthew, from the *Lindisfarne Gospels*
Color Plate 2. Gold buckle, from the Sutton Hoo ship-burial
Color Plate 3. The Ardagh Chalice
Color Plate 4. Map of England, from *Historia Major*
Color Plate 5. Passion Scenes, from the *Winchester Psalter*
Color Plate 6. King Arthur and His Knights, from a manuscript of the *Prose Lancelot*

Color Plate 7. Two scenes from *The Holkham Bible Picture Book*
Color Plate 8. Richard II with His Regalia
Color Plate 9. Page with *The Wife of Bath's Tale,* from the Ellesmere Chaucer manuscript
Color Plate 10. Anne, Duchess of Bedford, Kneeling Before the Virgin Mary and Saint Anne, from the *Bedford Hours*

POLITICS AND SOCIETY IN THE FOURTEENTH CENTURY 27

THE SPREAD OF BOOK CULTURE IN THE FIFTEENTH CENTURY 30

BEFORE THE NORMAN CONQUEST 32

BEOWULF 32

(A Penguin Classics Translation by Michael Alexander)
Illustration. Peoples and places in *Beowulf* 33
Illustration. Royal genealogies of the Northern European tribes according to the *Beowulf* text 35
Illustration. Boar, from a bas-relief carving on St. Nicholas Church, Ipswich 44

RESPONSE
John Gardner: *from* Grendel 107

from THE TÁIN BÓ CUAILNGE 111

EARLY IRISH VERSE 133

To Crinog 134
Pangur the Cat 135
Writing in the Wood 136
The Viking Terror 136
The Old Woman of Beare 137
Findabair Remembers Fróech 140
A Grave Marked with Ogam 140
from The Voyage of Máel Dúin 141

JUDITH 142

THE DREAM OF THE ROOD 148
Illustration. The Ruthwell Cross 149

PERSPECTIVES
Ethnic and Religious Encounters 153

BEDE 154
from An Ecclesiastical History of the English People 155

BISHOP ASSER 160
from The Life of King Alfred 160
KING ALFRED 162
Preface to Saint Gregory's *Pastoral Care* 162
OHTHERE'S JOURNEYS 164
Illustration. The Death of Harold, from *The Bayeux Tapestry* 166
THE ANGLO-SAXON CHRONICLE 167
Stamford Bridge and Hastings 167

TALIESIN 168
Urien Yrechwydd 169
The Battle of Argoed Llwyfain 170
The War-Band's Return 170
Lament for Owain Son of Urien 172

THE WANDERER 172

WULF AND EADWACER *and* THE WIFE'S LAMENT 176

RIDDLES 178
Three Anglo-Latin Riddles by Aldhelm 179
Five Old English Riddles 180

AFTER THE NORMAN CONQUEST 182

PERSPECTIVES
Arthurian Myth in the History of Britain 182
GEOFFREY OF MONMOUTH 183
from History of the Kings of Britain 184
GERALD OF WALES 194
from The Instruction of Princes 195
EDWARD I 196
Letter sent to the Papal Court of Rome 197
RESPONSE
A Report to Edward I 198

ARTHURIAN ROMANCE 200

MARIE DE FRANCE 200
Lais 201
Prologue 201
Illustration. Marie de France Writing, from an illuminated manuscript of her works 202

Lanval 203
Chevrefoil (The Honeysuckle) 217

SIR GAWAIN AND THE GREEN KNIGHT 219
(A Penguin Classics Translation by Brian Stone)
Illustration. Courtly Women Hunting, from the *Taymouth Hours* 244

SIR THOMAS MALORY 277

MORTE DARTHUR 279
from Caxton's Prologue 279
The Miracle of Galahad 281
The Poisoned Apple 288
The Day of Destiny 298

RESPONSES
Marion Zimmer Bradley: *from* The Mists of Avalon 308
Graham Chapman, John Cleese, Terry Gilliam, Eric Idle, Terry Jones, and Michael Palin: *scene from* Monty Python and the Holy Grail 309

Illustration. Still of Arthur and his servant Patsy from *Monty Python and the Holy Grail* 311

GEOFFREY CHAUCER 312
Illustration. Portrait of Geoffrey the Canterbury Pilgrim, from the Ellesmere Chaucer manuscript 314
The Parliament of Fowls (Web)

THE CANTERBURY TALES 316
The General Prologue (Middle English and modern translation) 318
The Miller's Tale 358
The Introduction 358
The Tale 360
The Wife of Bath's Prologue 375
The Wife of Bath's Tale 394
The Franklin's Tale (Web)
The Prologue (Web)
The Tale (Web)
The Pardoner's Prologue 403
The Pardoner's Tale 408
Illustration. Detail from a carved chest, showing scenes from *The Pardoner's Tale* 409
The Nun's Priest's Tale 420
The Parson's Tale 436
The Introduction 436
The Remedy for the Sin of Lechery 438
Chaucer's Retraction 440
To His Scribe Adam 441
Complaint to His Purse 442

WILLIAM LANGLAND 442

Piers Plowman 445

Prologue 445

Passus 2 447

from Passus 6 449

from Passus 8 451

Illustration. Plowmen, from the *Luttrell Psalter* 452

Passus 20 456

"PIERS PLOWMAN" AND ITS TIME

The Rising of 1381 468

Illustration. Adam and Eve, detail of a misericord 469

from *The Anonimalle Chronicle* [Wat Tyler's Demands to Richard II, and His Death] 470

Three Poems on the Rising of 1381: John Ball's First Letter 475 • *John Ball's Second Letter* 475 • *The Course of Revolt* 476 • *John Gower:* from *The Voice of One Crying* 477

MYSTICAL WRITINGS 480

JULIAN OF NORWICH 481

A Book of Showings 482

[Three Graces. Illness. The First Revelation] 482

[Laughing at the Devil] 486

[Christ Draws Julian in through His Wound] 487

[The Necessity of Sin, and of Hating Sin] 489

[God as Father, Mother, Husband] 491

[The Soul as Christ's Citadel] 495

[The Meaning of the Visions Is Love] 497

COMPANION READINGS

Richard Rolle: *from* The Fire of Love 498

from The Cloud of Unknowing 499

MEDIEVAL BIBLICAL DRAMA 501

THE SECOND PLAY OF THE SHEPHERDS 502

THE YORK PLAY OF THE CRUCIFIXION 521

MARGERY KEMPE 529

Illustration. Crucifixion Scene, from a manuscript of *On the Passion of Our Lord,* 1405 530

The Book of Margery Kempe 531
The Preface 531
[Early Life and Temptations, Revelation, Desire for Foreign Pilgrimage] 532
[Meeting with Bishop of Lincoln and Archbishop of Canterbury] 539
[Visit with Julian of Norwich] 542
[Pilgrimage to Jerusalem] 544
[Arrest by Duke of Bedford's Men; Meeting with Archbishop of York] 546

MIDDLE ENGLISH LYRICS 550
The Cuckoo Song ("Sumer is icumen in") 551
Spring ("Lenten is come with love to toune") 551
Illustration. Manuscript page with *The Cuckoo Song* 552
Alisoun ("Bitwene Mersh and Averil") 553
I Have a Noble Cock 554
My Lefe Is Faren in a Lond 554
Fowls in the Frith 555
Abuse of Women ("In every place ye may well see") 555
The Irish Dancer ("Gode sire, pray ich thee") 556
A Forsaken Maiden's Lament ("I lovede a child of this cuntree") 557
The Wily Clerk ("This enther day I mete a clerke") 557
Jolly Jankin ("As I went on YoI Day in our procession") 558
Adam Lay Ibounden 559
I Sing of a Maiden 560
In Praise of Mary ("Edi be thu, Hevene Quene") 560
Mary Is with Child ("Under a tree") 562
Sweet Jesus, King of Bliss 563
Now Goeth Sun under Wood 564
Jesus, My Sweet Lover ("Jesu Christ, my lemmon swete") 564
Contempt of the World ("Where beth they biforen us weren?") 565

DAFYDD AP GWILYM 566
Aubade 567
One Saving Place 568
Tale of a Wayside Inn 570
The Winter 571
The Ruin 572

MIDDLE SCOTS POETS 573

WILLIAM DUNBAR 574
Lament for the Makars 574
Done Is a Battell 577
In Secreit Place This Hyndir Nycht 578

ROBERT HENRYSON 579
Robene and Makyne 580

LATE MEDIEVAL ALLEGORY 583

CHARLES D'ORLÉANS 584
Ballade 26 584
Ballade 61 585
Roundel 94 586

MANKIND 587
(acting edition by Peter Meredith)
Illustration. Mankynde: A Postmodern Musical 587

CHRISTINE DE PIZAN 613
Illustration. Illustration from *Book of the City of Ladies,* 1521 614
from Book of the City of Ladies 614
(trans. Earle Jeffrey Richards)

Credits *621*
Index *623*