

English Renaissance

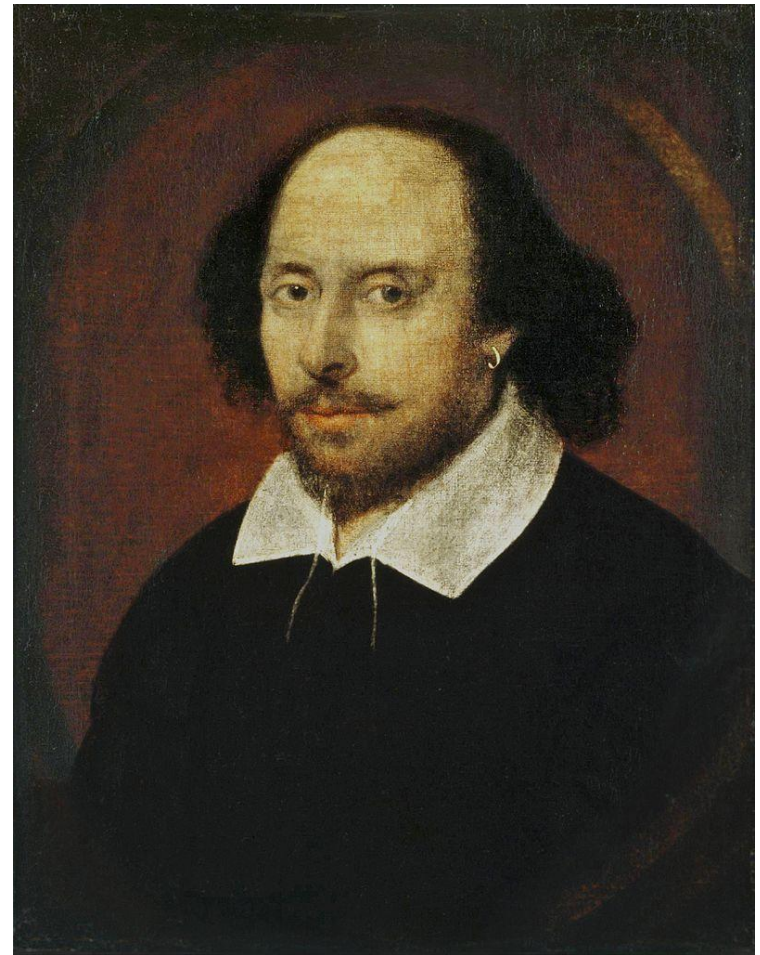
- The rise of Renaissance under the early Tudor monarchs (1500-1558)
- The height of Renaissance under Elizabeth I (1558-1603)
- The decline of Renaissance under the Stuart monarchs (1603-1649)

English Renaissance

- The works of this period are also affected by Henry VIII's declaration of independence from the Catholic Church and technological advances in sailing and cartography, which are reflected in the generally nonreligious themes and various shipwreck adventures of Shakespeare
- The English theatre scene, which performed both for the court and nobility in private performances, and a very wide public in the theatres, was the most crowded in Europe, with a host of other playwrights as well as the giant figures of Christopher Marlowe, Shakespeare and Ben Jonson.

English Renaissance

William Shakespeare (1564 - 1616) stands out in this period as a poet and playwright as yet unsurpassed. Shakespeare wrote plays in a variety of genres, including histories, tragedies, comedies and the late romances, or tragicomedies. Shakespeare's career continues in the Jacobean period.



Jacobean period: 1603–25

- In the early 17th century Shakespeare wrote the so-called "problem plays", as well as a number of his best known tragedies, including *Macbeth* and *King Lear*.
- In his final period, Shakespeare turned to romance or tragicomedy and completed three more major plays, including *The Tempest*. Less bleak than the tragedies, these four plays are graver in tone than the comedies of the 1590s, but they end with reconciliation and the forgiveness of potentially tragic errors.
- Shakespeare popularized the English sonnet, which made significant changes to Petrarch's model. A collection of 154 by sonnets, dealing with themes such as the passage of time, love, beauty and mortality, were first published in a 1609 quarto.
- The most important prose work of the early 17th century was the King James Bible. This, one of the most massive translation projects in the history of English up to this time, was started in 1604 and completed in 1611. This represents the culmination of a tradition of Bible translation into English that began with the work of William Tyndale, and it became the standard Bible of the Church of England.

Late Renaissance

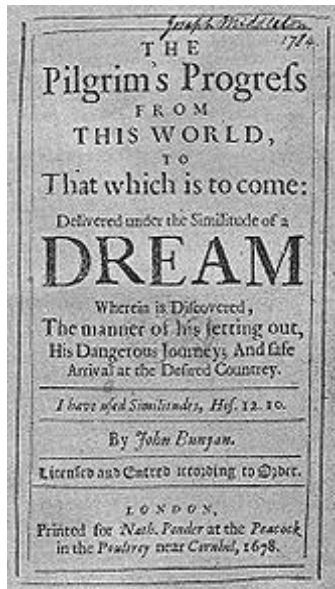
- John Milton (1608–74) "was the last great poet of the English Renaissance" and published a number of works before 1660, including *A L'Allegro*, 1631; *Il Penseroso*, 1634; *Comus* (a masque), 1638; and *Lycidas*, (1638). However, his major epic works, including *Paradise Lost* (1667) were published in the Restoration period. Milton's poetry and prose reflect deep personal convictions, a passion for freedom and self-determination, and the urgent issues and political turbulence of his day.



Restoration age

- The official break in literary culture caused by censorship and radically moralist standards under Cromwell's Puritan regime created a gap in literary tradition, allowing a seemingly fresh start for all forms of literature after the Restoration. During the Interregnum, the royalist forces attached to the court of Charles I went into exile with the twenty-year-old Charles II. The nobility who travelled with Charles II were therefore lodged for over a decade in the midst of the continent's literary scene.
- Puritan authors such as John Milton were forced to retire from public life or adapt, and those authors who had preached against monarchy and who had participated directly in the regicide of Charles I were partially suppressed. Consequently, violent writings were forced underground, and many of those who had served in the Interregnum attenuated their positions in the Restoration.

Restoration period



- During the Restoration period, the most common manner of getting news would have been a broadsheet publication. A single, large sheet of paper might have a written, usually partisan, account of an event.
- It is impossible to satisfactorily date the beginning of the novel in English. However, long fiction and fictional biographies began to distinguish themselves from other forms in England during the Restoration period.

Self-guided work

- Homework
- Read pp.34-40, 43(??)
pp.50-64, 70-72, 88-90
- Pp.97-99

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History - Renaissance –

- Reformation
- Elizabethan era
- W.Shakespear
- Clothing and fashion

(Quizzes are desirable too
+ Notes)