**Medieval Romance**

Romance is the most prevailing kind of literature in medieval England. It was a long composition in verses or proses, describing the life and adventure of a knight. A knight was a noble man skilled with weapons. He usually sought adventures, took part in tournaments, or fought for his lord. The code of morals of a knight is known as chivalry.

Most romances fall into cycles as the "matter of Britain", the "matter of France" and the “matter of Rome”. The English versions of these romances were translated from French or Latin. The romance of King Arthur, a Celtic hero, was one of the 15th-century masterpieces and the most important romance for the history of English literature. It was originated in Celtic legends, culminated in *Sir Gawain and the Green Knight* (metrical romance), and summed up in Thomas Malory’s *Le Morte D’Arthur* (English prose).

The theme of romances, loyalty, which means that the knight devoted himself to the king and the church, was the corner-stone of feudal morality. The romances were usually read by the court or the castle. They were composed for the noble, of the noble and in most cases by the poets patronized by the noble.