

# English Literature

The Bare Minimum for BCS

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# Preface

What follows are my own notes on English Literature for BCS. There probably are plenty of mistakes, and I apologise if anyone reading this has found one. These notes have been made, first and foremost, for personal use, so verify anything that seems off (or better, even anything that doesn't). Let me know of the errors.

**Use at your own peril.**

Susmit Islam

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# Periods of English Literature

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# Periods of English Literature

- Mnemonic: অমি রান্না নিয়ে রুমি ভাই এর মন পেল
  - Old age / Anglo-Saxon period
  - Middle age
  - Renaissance
  - Neoclassical
  - Romantic
  - Victorian
  - Edwardian
  - Modern
  - Postmodern / contemporary

## Old English (450-1066)

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- Most famous work: **Beowulf**
  - Epic poem
  - Author was anonymous
  - $\approx$  3200 lines

## Middle English (1066-1500)

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# Middle English (1066-1500)

- Famous authors:
  - **Geoffrey Chaucer** aka *father of English poetry*
  - Thomas Malory
  - Robert Henryson

## Renaissance (1500-1660)

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# Renaissance (1500-1660)

- 4 subperiods:

- Mnemonic: লিঁজা যাবে কারে করে

- Elizabethan (1558-1603)

- Replete with lyrics and songs
- Golden age of English drama
- Famous authors:
  - Christopher Marlowe
  - Shakespeare
  - Francis Bacon
  - Edmund Spenser

# Renaissance (1500-1660)

- John Lyly

## ■ Jacobean (1603-1625)

- Reign of James I → Jacobean era
- Famous authors:
  - John Donne
  - Michael Drayton
  - Ben Johnson
  - Elizabeth Cary

## ■ Caroline (1625-1649)

- Reign of Charles I (“Carolus”) → Caroline era
- Famous authors:

# Renaissance (1500-1660)

- John Milton
- Robert Burton
- George Herbert

## ■ Commonwealth (1650-1660)

### ● Famous authors:

- John Milton
- Thomas Hobbes
- Thomas Fuller
- Abraham Cowley
- Andrew Marvell