



# English IV: British Literature Syllabus

Revised  
2006

## 1<sup>st</sup> Six Weeks

*The Anglo-Saxon Period*  
449-1066

### Literary Elements:

Lyric poem  
Kenning  
Litote  
Elegy  
Epic  
Caesura  
Ubi Sunt  
Alliterative Verse

### Literary Background:

History of British Literature:  
Anglo-Saxon Culture  
-Heroic tradition  
-Comitatus relationship  
-Thanes and Cyning  
-Pagan/Christian elements  
-Wyrð  
Oral Tradition  
-Scop  
-The Great Vowel Shift

### Literary Pieces:

The Exeter Book  
Beowulf  
Sir Gawain & Green Knight

### Poetry:

Anglo-Saxon Poetry  
The Seafarer  
The Wife's Lament  
The Wanderer

### Grammar/Writing:

Fragments  
Run-ons

## 2<sup>nd</sup> Six Weeks

*The Middle Ages*  
1066-1485

### Literary Elements:

Medieval Romances  
The Chaucerian Persona  
Frame Story  
Characterization  
Exemplum/Parable

### Literary Background:

Medieval Romance  
Arthurian Legends  
History of the Pilgrimage  
-Thomas a Becket

### Literary Pieces:

Canterbury Tales (Chaucer)  
-Wife of Bath's Tale  
-Pardoner's Tale  
-Nun's Priest's Tale

### Grammar/Writing:

Easily Confused Words  
Types of Sentences  
-Periodic  
-Balanced  
-Inverted  
-Cumulative  
Verbals  
-Infinitives  
-Gerunds  
-Participles

## 3<sup>rd</sup> Six Weeks

*The Renaissance*  
1485-1660

### Literary Elements:

Imagery  
Motifs  
Conflict  
Characterization  
-Internal  
-External  
Tragedy  
The Tragic Hero  
Soliloquy  
Comic Relief

### Literary Pieces:

Drama  
-Macbeth

### Poetry:

Poetic Form  
-Shakespearean Sonnets  
-Petrarchan Sonnets

### Writing/Research Skills

Mini-Research: Motifs

- using quotes
- thesis writing
- proving assertion
- formal tone
- bibliography
- documentation
- research
- authoritative sources
- plagiarism
- revising/editing
- meeting deadlines

## 4<sup>th</sup> Six Weeks

*The Renaissance (cont.)*  
1485-1660

### Literary Elements:

Metaphysical Poetry  
Rhythm  
Irony, Conceit, Satire  
Theme, Mood  
Dramatic Monologue, Ode  
Simile, Metaphor, Symbol  
Personification  
Author vs. Speaker  
Diary, Satire, Mock Epic

### Literary Pieces:

Hamlet (Shakespeare)  
The Rape of the Lock (Pope)  
The Diary (Pepys)  
Journal of the Plague Year  
(Defoe)  
Gulliver's Travels (Swift)  
A Modest Proposal (Swift)

### Poetry by Authors:

Donne, Blake, Byron, Keats,  
Tennyson, R. Browning, E.  
Browning, Housmann, Hardy

## 5<sup>th</sup> Six Weeks

*The Romantic/Victorian Eras*  
1700-1800s

### Literary Elements:

The Gothic Novel  
The Antihero

### Literary Pieces:

Frankenstein (Shelley)  
Wuthering Heights (Bronte)  
Dr. Jekyll & Mr. Hyde  
(Stephenson)

### Poetry:

Rime of the Ancient Mariner  
(Coleridge)

### Grammar/Writing:

Varying Sentence Structure  
Research Paper  
Syntax Techniques

## 6<sup>th</sup> Six Weeks

*The Modern Era*  
1900s-present

### Literary Elements:

Social Satire  
Dystopian Novel  
Distortion  
Grotesque

### Literary Background:

Russian Revolution  
Literary Response to War  
Propaganda Techniques

### Literary Pieces:

1984 (Orwell)  
Brave New World (Huxley)  
Lord of the Flies (Golding)  
Heart of Darkness (Conrad)

### Reading/Writing:

Narrative Writing  
Close Reading Strategies