

March 20, 2014

English Language and Literature

Time Line

450 AD Invasion of the Angles, Saxons, various cousins

790 the Danes (Vikings)

1066 Normans arrive with Norman French

1400s – death of French/Founding of Oxford and Cambridge/Caxton and the Printing press

16th-17th centuries – Renaissance

18th – Present: Empire/Science/

Beowulf 850-1000

Hwæt! Wé Gárdena	in géardagum	Listen! We --of the <u>Spear-Danes</u>	in the days of yore,
þéodcýninga	þrym gefrúnon·	of those clan-kings--	<u>heard</u> of their glory.
hú ðá æþelingas	ellen fremedon.	how those nobles	performed courageous deeds.
Oft Scyld Scéfing	sceaþena þrátum	Often <u>Scyld, Scef's</u> son,	from enemy hosts
monegum maéþpum	meodosetla oftéah·	5 from many peoples	seized mead-benches;

Chaucer 1350- 1400

Whan that aprill with his shoures soote
The droghte of march hath perced to the roote,
And bathed every veyne in swich licour
Of which vertu engendred is the flour;
Whan zephirus eek with his sweete breeth
Inspired hath in every holt and heeth
Tendre croppes, and the yonge sonne
Hath in the ram his halve cours yronne,
And smale foweles maken melodye,
That slepen al the nyght with open ye
(so priketh hem nature in hir corages);
Thanne longen folk to goon on pilgrimages,
And palmeres for to seken straunge strondes,
To ferne halwes, kowthe in sondry londes;
And specially from every shires ende
Of engelond to caunterbury they wende,
The hooly blisful martir for to seke,
That hem hath holpen whan that they were seeke.

King James Bible 1611

In the beginning God created the Heauen, and the Earth.

² And the earth was without forme, and voyd, and darknesse was vpon the face of the deepe: and the Spirit of God mooued vpon the face of the waters.

³ And God said, Let there be light: and there was light.

⁴ And God saw the light, that it was good: and God diuided the light from the darknesse.

⁵ And God called the light, Day, and the darknesse he called Night: and the euening and the morning were the first day.

⁶ And God said, Let there be a firmament in the midst of the waters: and let it diuide the waters from the waters.

⁷ And God made the firmament; and diuided the waters, which were vnder the firmament, from the waters, which were about the firmament: and it was so.

⁸ And God called the firmament, Heauen: and the euening and the morning were the second day.

Our Strange Lingo

When the English tongue we speak.
Why is break not rhymed with freak?
Will you tell me why it's true
We say sew but likewise few?
And the maker of the verse,
Cannot rhyme his horse with worse?
Beard is not the same as heard
Cord is different from word.
Cow is cow but low is low
Shoe is never rhymed with foe.
Think of hose, dose, and lose

And think of goose and yet with choose
Think of comb, tomb and bomb,
Doll and roll or home and some.
Since pay is rhymed with say
Why not paid with said I pray?
Think of blood, food and good.
Mould is not pronounced like could.
Wherefore done, but gone and lone -
Is there any reason known?
To sum up all, it seems to me
Sound and letters don't agree.

We must polish the Polish furniture.
He could lead if he would get the lead out.
The farm was used to produce produce.
The dump was so full that it had to refuse more refuse.
The soldier decided to desert in the desert.
This was a good time to present the present.
A bass was painted on the head of the bass drum.
When shot at, the dove dove into the bushes.
I did not object to the object.
The insurance was invalid for the invalid.
The bandage was wound around the wound.
There was a row among the oarsmen about how to row.
They were too close to the door to close it.

Next Lecture: April 17th – the Future of Language