# Grade 9 Unit 1: Anglo-American Literature I: Ancient Period

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The United Kingdom and the United States of America have been considered two of the most powerful states in the world for centuries already. However, just like any other nation, they have had their humble beginnings and their evolution brought about by colonization; political, social, and cultural changes, as well as technological advancements. Along with their progress, the development of their literature has reflected their identity as a nation, struggles towards preserving their civilization, the freedom of their ancestors, and their legacy to the world. This unit will give you a glimpse of these two nations’ history that helped mold their literature, as well as the unique features, elements, and genres of their literature. Sample selections will be provided for you to practice analyzing the features and elements of these literary works.

**Unit Objectives**

In this unit, you should be able to:

- identify the distinguishing features of Anglo-American literature;
- identify literary elements of Anglo-American literature during the ancient period;
- analyze the literary works that characterize the period; and
- describe the sociocultural context of the literary period.
Lesson 1: Overview of Anglo-American History

Have you ever wondered how English literature started? Their ancestors did not have any pen and paper nor any gadget to be able to write their thoughts. How did they manage to have their own literature? Find out the humble beginnings of English literature in this lesson.

Essential Question

Why is it important to look back at a country’s literary history?

Warm-up!

Share with your seatmate what you know about the following people or events:

1. Christopher Columbus
2. Dark Ages
3. Renaissance
4. King Henry VIII
5. American Civil War
6. Queen Victoria
7. African slavery
8. Industrial Revolution
9. World War I and II
Learn About It!

The list below traces the key historical and cultural developments in England and the United States of America from ancient times down to the contemporary period:

**Ancient Times (before 5th century A.D.) - England**

- The Romans found the land inhabited by the “Britons” or “Celts.”
- The Britons/Celts were conquered by the Anglo-Saxons who brought the Germanic language to the land. This language eventually replaced Latin.
- Christian missionaries converted pagans.
- King Alfred, the first king, brought order and prosperity to the land.

**Middle Ages/ Medieval Times (5th-15th century)**

- The Normans conquered the land under William, Duke of Normandy in 1066.
- St. Augustine, the first bishop of Canterbury, converted the Saxons.
- Christianity remained a powerful influence but some church leaders have become abusive and corrupt.
- The feudal system was established wherein the vassals (tenants) show obedience and loyalty to their lord for providing them security and protection.
- Chivalric code became the basis of morals and manners for the nobility class.
- It rekindled the people’s curiosity on philosophy, religion, and science.
- The Hundred Years’ War between England and France started. It ended in 1453 with England losing many of its lands to France.
- The period was interrupted by the bubonic plague that killed half of England’s population. This tragic period was called “the Dark Ages.”

**Vocabulary**

- **Germanic language** - the ancient language of Britain introduced by the Britons/Celts; eventually replaced Latin
- **feudal system** - a hierarchical structure established during the Middle Ages wherein the vassals (tenants) show obedience and loyalty to their lord for providing them security and protection
- **chivalric code** - the basis of morals and manners for the nobility class during the Middle Ages
In 1492, it is believed that Christopher Columbus set foot in what is now known as the United States of America. The table below compares significant events for both the United States and England.

The Renaissance Period (1300s–1500s)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>England</th>
<th>United States of America</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>● It was the rebirth of culture that was destroyed by the plague.</td>
<td>● It is believed that Christopher Columbus was the first explorer to set foot in what is now known as United States of America in 1492.</td>
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<tr>
<td>● Many scholars strove to bring back the glory of their country and their culture and had renewed interest in the humanities and sciences.</td>
<td>● The Virginia company was chartered by King James I of England to establish a colony in America.</td>
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<tr>
<td>● Caxton introduced the printing press into England.</td>
<td>● The Plymouth Colony was established by the Pilgrims with the aim of promoting Christianity and separating from England.</td>
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<tr>
<td>● They also desired to change the old feudalistic beliefs and practices and the face of the Church previously tainted by corruption.</td>
<td>● The Puritans had the same intention as the Pilgrims but with no desire to separate from England.</td>
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<tr>
<td>● King Henry VIII established the Church of England.</td>
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<tr>
<td>● People rejected the authority of the Catholic Church.</td>
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<tr>
<td>● England triumphed against Spain.</td>
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The Age of Enlightenment/ Reason/ The Restoration (1685–1815)

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<tr>
<th>England</th>
<th>United States of America</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>● King James and the Parliament Clashed.</td>
<td>● African slaves were transported to the Americas to work on plantations.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
• The Civil War broke out between 1642-1649 with the Cavaliers (the king’s followers) and the Puritans as rivals.

• Charles I was executed in 1649 as a result of the Puritan’s victory.

• The Puritan rule ended in 1660 when Charles II rose to the throne but the monarch had to share power with the Parliament this time.

• Reason and control were of great importance, emphasizing on people’s capability to discover the truth by themselves and not through other institutions like religion.

• It was period of great economic and scientific achievements.

• Industrial Revolution happened as a result of capitalism. Rural areas became more industrialized and urbanized due to newly introduced manufacturing processes.

• The French and the English fought over some areas of North America. The English colonizers won in the Seven Years War and imposed heavy taxes on the American colonists due to the huge amount of money spent during the wars.

• The Americans started to protest against English rule.

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The Romantic to Realistic Period (around 1770–1850)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>England</th>
<th>United States of America</th>
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</table>
| • This era saw Queen Victoria’s longest reign as a monarch.  
• The Victorian Age was the period of stability and prosperity as the British empire colonized many nations | • The American Revolution broke out in 1775. The Americans’ victory over the English led to the establishment of the American government.  
• The Declaration of Independence |
and owned ¼ of the world’s land.

- More and more scientific and technological developments occurred.
- The British society became more conscious of their class, morals, and proper decorum.
- While more people rose to a middle class status, many people sank in poverty as well.

was signed in 1776.

- The US Constitution was adopted in 1789 and George Washington became the first president of the Republic.
- The modernization of manufacturing process brought advancement especially to the northern states. This started the rift between the northern and southern states.
- The American Civil War broke out in 1861, fought between the Confederates (Southerners) and the Unionists (Northerners). The Unionists, who were anti-slavery, won the war.
- Slavery was abolished due to the 13th Amendment.
- Industrial Revolution caused some social issues like child labor and poor conditions of the immigrants.
- America won over the Spanish during the war in 1898. America rose to world power.

The Modern to Contemporary Period (1900–present)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>England</th>
<th>United States of America</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>- This period saw World War I and World War II which caused the death of millions of people and brought economic losses to many nations.</td>
<td>- US participated in World War I.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>- More and more rights were granted to marginalized peoples like women, the African-Americans, and many</td>
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<tr>
<td>England was part of the Allied forces together with USA.</td>
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<tr>
<td>The wars brought disillusionment, confusion, and paranoia among the people.</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>The country gained its political and financial stability after the war.</td>
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<tr>
<td>The UK was a founding member of NATO and in 1973 it became a member of the European Union.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Queen Elizabeth II had been reigning since 1952.</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>others.</td>
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<tr>
<td>The Roaring 20s was a period of prosperity and extravagance but also a period that saw moral degradation.</td>
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<tr>
<td>The Great Depression in 1929 left many Americans unemployed.</td>
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<tr>
<td>US was part of the Allied Forces during World War II. US bombed Hiroshima and Nagasaki which eventually forced Japan to surrender.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Modernism as an international movement drove many intellectuals to seek for freer, unconventional means of expression. Some dealt with important social or economic issues.</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>US economy prospered but the gap between the rich and the poor widened.</td>
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<tr>
<td>The marginalized peoples demanded fuller rights (e.g., black civil rights movement).</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>US was criticized for its participation in the Vietnam War (1957-1975).</td>
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<tr>
<td>US continued supporting other countries like Kuwait and Afghanistan to defeat their enemies.</td>
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</table>
Check Your Understanding

Which literary period is being described in each statement?

1. Literature during this period was heavily influenced by the two world wars that happened.
2. It was the period of rebuilding artistic works that were lost during the Dark Ages.
3. Oral literature like epics is the form of literature during this period.
4. It was the period of defiance against religion and emphasis on scientific developments.
5. It covers the Industrial Revolution in America and the height of England’s wealth and power.

Let’s Step Up!

Go to the library and find one English book from England and USA that was produced during each literary period. Read the summary at the back of the book (if there is) to familiarize yourself with how the book reflects the history of its literary period. Write a short analytical paper.

Let’s Revisit The Essentials!

Go back to the essential question on the introduction page and discuss in class.
Lesson 2: Key Features and Genres of Anglo-American Literature

The literature of a country is usually a product of its sociological, cultural, and historical developments. Thus, when we analyze a literary text, we distinguish not only the forms and conventions applied but also its genre. In this lesson, you will find out the key features and the prominent genres in each literary period.

Warm-up!

Have you read any of these when you were younger or watched their movie adaptations?
   1. King Arthur and the Knights of the Round Table
   2. Canterbury Tales
   3. Robinson Crusoe
   4. Frankenstein
   5. Adventures of Tom Sawyer

Share in class what you remember about these classics.

Learn About It!

After you have been acquainted with the English and American history and cultural developments, the table below documents the literary developments in England and United States of America from the ancient times down to the contemporary period. The key features and genres are described, and the representative writers for each genre are also enumerated below:
### Ancient Times (before 5th century A.D.)

**Key Features**
- Stories are passed down from one generation to another through oral tradition.
- Poems written are laden with biblical and religious themes

**Genres and Representative Writers**
- Epic - a long narrative poem that recounts the adventures and the triumph of a hero
  - Example: *Beowulf*
- Religious poems written by Cynewulf and Caedmon

### The Middle Ages / Medieval Times (5th–15th Century)

**Key Features**
- Works were written in what was called as “modern English” and not in Latin anymore.
- Vernacular literature, religious writings, and secular texts emerged.

**Genres and Representative Writers**
- Heroic tales and romances that tackle chivalry and adventure of knights
  - Examples: *Le Morte d’Arthur* by Sir Thomas Malory and *Sir Gawain and the Green Knight* by the Pearl Poet
- Anthology of tales
  - Example: *Canterbury Tales* by Geoffrey Chaucer
The Renaissance Period (1300s–1500s)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Key Features</th>
<th>Genres and Representative Writers</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>● Texts show more optimism despite staying true to the medieval tradition.</td>
<td>● Lyric poetry - poetry that expresses personal sentiments like sonnets (fourteen-line poems) by William Shakespeare and Edmund Spenser; and pastoral poems that ideally depict the rural life in the poems of Christopher Marlowe and Sir Walter Raleigh</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>● Texts became sophisticated, serious, and concerned with social abuse and rivalry among groups.</td>
<td>● Other famous poets were John Donne, Thomas Middleton, and Anne Bradstreet</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>● Texts are centered on religious, practical, or historical themes.</td>
<td>● Prose/essays written by Francis Bacon, Benjamin Franklin, and Cotton Mather</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>● Theaters were closed due to moral and religious reasons.</td>
<td>● Tragedies and comedies of William Shakespeare and Christopher Marlowe</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Age of Enlightenment/Reason/The Restoration (1685–1815)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Key Features</th>
<th>Genres and Representative Writers</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>● Literary works are known for their use of philosophy, reason, skepticism towards institutions/authorities, wit, and refinement.</td>
<td>● Comedy of manners—a type of comedy that satirizes a specific group in society, usually the upper class. Example: William Wycherley (The Country Wife, 1675) and William Congreve (The Way of the World, 1700).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>● Writers wrote with clarity and balance of judgement.</td>
<td>● Epic--John Milton's Paradise Lost and Paradise Regained</td>
</tr>
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<td></td>
<td>● Play--John Dryden</td>
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<td></td>
<td>● Essay--John Locke</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Satire--is a text that uses humor to attack a social issue. Example: Jonathan Swift’s “A Modest Proposal” and Alexander Pope's verses

- Novel--Daniel Defoe's Robinson Crusoe and Tom Jones by Henry Fielding

**Romantic to Realistic Period (around 1770-1890)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Key Features</th>
<th>Genres and Representative Writers</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>- Writers from the Romantic movement focused on the true, the good, and the beautiful, as well as the expansion of imagination that gave way to freer forms of expression. It also valued the human spirit and love for nature.</td>
<td>- Gothic fiction--features grotesque, gloomy, and mysterious settings, characters, and situations. Examples: novels by Anne Radcliffe and Mary Shelley; short stories by Edgar Allan Poe</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Realist writers focused on portraying societal problems accurately, particularly the plight of the common people.</td>
<td>- Lyric poems by William Wordsworth, Samuel Taylor Coleridge, Alfred Lord Tennyson, Elizabeth Barrett Browning, her husband Robert, Matthew Arnold, and many others.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- These eras produced the one of the most important documents of American history.</td>
<td>- Political documents like Thomas Paine’s Common Sense and Thomas Jefferson's The Declaration of Independence.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- American writers produced original and high-quality pieces that make them unique from English writers</td>
<td>- Novels by Charles Dickens Charlotte Brontë, George Eliot, and Thomas Hardy</td>
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<td></td>
<td>- Satirical novels by Mark Twain</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Modern to Contemporary (1900-present)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Key Features</th>
<th>Genres and Representative Writers</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>- Writers make commentaries on the social injustice and the selfishness of the upper class society.</td>
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<td>- Naturalist works portrayed a darker yet more realistic view of life.</td>
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<td>- Writers experimented with subject matter, form, and style.</td>
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<tr>
<td>- The Lost Generation writers fled to Europe and wrote about their moral crisis and disillusionment after the world wars.</td>
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<tr>
<td>- Juxtaposing genres and styles characterize postmodern literature</td>
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<tr>
<td>- Harlem Renaissance poems by Langston Hughes and W.E.B. DuBois that celebrate the African-American identity</td>
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<tr>
<td>- Drama by Eugene O'Neill, Noel Coward, and Samuel Beckett</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Let's Check In!

What is the difference between the following genres?

1. lyric and epic poetry
2. satire and comedy of manners
3. romance and Gothic fiction
Check Your Understanding

Which literary period does each writer belong to?

1. Charles Dickens
2. Thomas Malory
3. Ernest Hemingway
4. William Shakespeare
5. Caedmon
6. James Joyce
7. Geoffrey Chaucer
8. Robert Frost
9. Daniel Defoe
10. Jonathan Swift

Let’s Step Up!

Choose one genre and find an English or American literary piece that represents it. Share with your classmate what you read about its summary.

Let’s Revisit The Essentials!

Go back to the essential question on the introduction page and discuss in class.
Lesson 3: Elements of Anglo-Saxon Literature During the Ancient Period

Have you ever wondered how ancient English people lived and how their literature emerged? You will find the answers in this lesson.

Warm-up!

Look for images on the internet depicting scenes of how the ancient English folk used to look like. What do you think could they have been talking about in the images? Write your guesses on a piece of paper and share it in class.

Learn About It!

The Early Anglo-Saxon Life

The Anglo-Saxons arrived in Britain and lived in small villages led by warrior chiefs. They mostly lived in houses made out of wood with thatched roofs inside the walls of Roman towns. Settlements were small, consisting of about two to three families.

Anglo-Saxon settlers were led by a war-chief. Villages were grouped into kingdoms ruled by a king leading a small army. Wars frequently erupted among these kingdoms.
By AD 600, five Anglo-Saxon kingdoms emerged. These were Northumbria, Mercia, Wessex, Kent and East Anglia. The strongest king was known as the *bretwalda*, which meant ruler of all Britain.

By this time, kingdoms had already established laws. People who were found to be guilty of crimes were fined, or worse, executed.

**Literature During the Ancient Anglo-Saxon Period**

From about 449 AD to 1066 AD, most people could not read, and so most stories were told orally. Some oral stories reached different kingdoms because of travelling storytellers called *scops*.

Reciting poems were also common during this time. Poems were recited during ceremonial occasions such as celebration of winning a war.

During this time, poetry, also referred to as early verse, consisted of the following categories:

1. **Heroic poetry** recounted the achievements of warriors.

2. **Lyric poetry** expressed the thoughts and feelings of the speaker.

3. **Elegiac poetry** lamented the death of loved ones. Elegiac poetry has a melancholic and mournful tone, and an example of it is the *Exeter Book*, believed to be compiled by monks between 871-899 AD.

**Elements Common to Early Anglo-Saxon Literature**

1. **Rhythm** — contains lines with regular rhythms, usually four strong beats (or stresses).

**Example:** The following is an excerpt from *The
Seafarer from The Exeter:

This tale is true, and mine. It tells.
How the sea took me, swept me back.
And forth in sorrow and fear and pain,
Showed me suffering in a hundred ships.

The underlined words, tale, true, mine, and tells are read aloud with stress. These words have four strong beats.

2. **Alliteration** is the repetition of stressed sounds in words. They are usually consonants from the beginning of words.

   **Example:**
   
   This tale is true, and mine. It tells.
   How the sea took me, swept me back.
   And forth in sorrow and fear and pain,
   Showed me suffering in a hundred ships.

   In the example above, the letter t is repeated in four words in the first line. The succeeding lines show repetition of the sound s in sorrow, shows, suffering, and ships.

3. **Caesura**, a Latin word which means cutting, is a sound break in the middle of a poetic line, and is usually symbolized by a punctuation mark in the middle of that particular line.

   **Example: The opening line of Beowulf, reads:**
Hwæt! We Gardena || in gear-dagum, 
þeodcyninga, || þrym gefrunon, 
hu ða æþelingas || ellen fremedon.  
(So! The Spear-Danes in days gone by)  
(and the kings who ruled them had courage and greatness.)  
(We have heard of these princes' heroic campaigns.)

The symbol || means that this is read with a pause. Pauses in the middle of a poetic line was useful in remembering the lines, since they were expressed orally. Furthermore, these breaks add rhythm to the verse.

4. **Compounding** is combining two words to create a new word. Compounding was very common in Anglo-Saxon poetry.

**Example:** The word feorhseoc consists of two words, foerh which means life, and seoc which means sick. Feorhseoc literally means lifesick, translated as wounded.

5. **Kenning** is a two-word metaphorical name.

**Examples:**
O whale's road means the sea.
O bone's house refers to a body.
The sky's candle refers to the sun.

6. **Variation** is a technique used to restate a concept or term using a different set of words.

**Example:** Here is an excerpt from Beowulf (lines 1408 – 1411):
The nobleman's son then passed the steep rocky cliffs, the narrow path, the narrow single-file path, an unknown way, precipitous headland, the homes of many water-monsters.

Notice how the steep rocky cliffs were described as the narrow path, then again, restated as a narrow single file path. Variation is used to emphasize an important detail in the narrative.

Example: Here is another example from line 429:

Beowulf spoke, the son of Edgetho.

The phrase, the son of Edgetho is constantly mentioned in the poem. This is to remind the audience about who Beowulf is.

Let’s Check In!

Look for a copy of Beowulf in your library and choose an excerpt verse. Identify the elements of Anglo-Saxon poetry from that excerpt.
Check Your Understanding

Which element of Anglo-Saxon poetry is present in this excerpt from Beowulf:

**Beowulf Attacks Grendel's Mother**

Beowulf spake, *bairn of Ecgtheow:--
"Have mind, thou honored offspring of Healfdene
gold-friend of men, now I go on this quest,
sovan* wise, what once was said:
if in thy cause it came that I
should lose my life, thou wouldst loyal bide
to me, though fallen, in father's place!
Be guardian, thou, to this group of my thanes,
my warrior-friends, if War should seize me;
and the goodly gifts thou gavest me,
Hrothgar beloved, to Hygelac send!
Geatland's king may ken by the gold,
Hrethel's son see, when he stares at the treasure,
that I got me a friend for goodness famed,
and joyed while I could in my jewel-bestower.
And let Unferth wield this wondrous sword,
earl far-honored, this heirloom precious,
hard of edge: with Hrunting I
seek doom of glory, or Death shall take me."
Let’s Step Up!

Now knowing a little more of the ancient English people, why do you think their literature had to have these elements? What do you think was the purpose?

Let’s Revisit The Essentials!

Go back to the essential question on the introduction page and discuss in class.
Lesson 4: Featured Selection - Beowulf

In Lesson 3, you learned what makes up an Anglo-Saxon poetry. In this lesson you will have a further look at its elements through a sample epic produced during the ancient period--Beowulf.

Warm-up!

What are the characteristics of a hero? List down as many as you can think of on a sheet of paper. Share your responses in a class discussion. Make sure to be ready to support the reasons you will be sharing.

Essential Question

Why are epics essential to a nation?
One of the most popular narrative poetry of the Early Anglo-Saxon Period is *Beowulf*. It is an epic poem with 3,182 lines, considered to be the oldest surviving long poem in English literature.

It is believed to have been written at around 975-1025 AD. The photo on the left is a copy of the first folio written in the West Saxon dialect of Old English.

*Beowulf* is an example of an **epic poem** – a narrative poem that talks about the achievements and bravery of a heroic character. It is characterized by miraculous events and supernatural beings such as monsters or demons that play a huge role in order to emphasize the bravery of the heroic character.

Below are some of the characteristics of an **epic poem**:

1. The hero is a figure of national importance.
2. The action involves a long and dangerous journey.
3. The setting of an epic is large in scale.
4. Supernatural beings and events play a role in epic affairs.
5. The style of an epic is formal and grand.
6. Epics assign short phrases to individual characters.

**Vocabulary**

- **epic poem** – a narrative poem that talks about the achievements and bravery of a heroic character
Below is a summary of the epic Beowulf.

King Hrothgar of Denmark is a descendant of the great king Shield Sheafson. His reign has been prosperous for many years. He builds a great mead-hall, called Heorot, where his warriors can drink, receive gifts, and listen to stories sung by the scops, or bards. There is a demon named Grendel who lives in the swamplands of Hrothgar’s kingdom, and the noise from Heorot angers Grendel. Grendel then terrorizes the locals (Danes) night after night, killing them and defeating them, despite them fighting back.

The Danes lived in suffering and fear. Until one day, a young Geatish warrior named Beowulf learns about Hrothgar’s plight. Beowulf decides to take the challenge and sails to Denmark with other men to defeat Grendel.

Hrothgar, who had once done a great favor for Beowulf’s father Ecgtheow, accepts Beowulf’s offer to fight Grendel and holds a feast in the hero’s honor. During the feast, an envious Dane named Unferth mocks Beowulf. Beowulf, then, responds arrogantly by describing some of his past accomplishments. This leads to cheers from the Danish warriors and the feast goes on.

Grendel then arrives. Beowulf fights him without any weapons, proving himself stronger than the demon. Grendel is now terrified, and tries to escape. Beowulf tears the monster’s arm off. Grendel then falls back into the swamp to die. The severed arm is regarded as the trophy and is hung high in the mead-hall.

Hrothgar is overjoyed and showers Beowulf with gifts and throws a feast in his honor. The celebration lasts late into the night until Grendel’s mother, a swamp hag who lives in a desolate lake, arrives seeking revenge. She murders Aeschere, one of Hrothgar’s most trusted advisers, before slinking away. To avenge Aeschere’s death, the company of men follows her to the murky swamp. Beowulf dives into the water and fights Grendel’s mother underwater. Using a sword specifically made to kill giants, he kills her, decapitates Grendel’s corpse and brings the head to Hrothgar.

The Danes are again happy, and Beowulf becomes famous across the kingdom. Beowulf bids farewell to Hrothgar and returns to Geatland, where he and his men are reunited with their king and queen, Hygelac and Hygd. Beowulf then hands over some of his treasure to Hygelac,
who, in turn, rewards him.

Time passes and Hygelac is killed in a war against the Shylfings, and, after Hygelac’s son dies, Beowulf becomes the ruler of the Geats. His successful rule lasts for fifty years.

After many years, Beowulf becomes an old man. One day, a thief disturbs a lair of a great dragon who guards a mound of treasure. Angry, the dragon emerges and begins unleashing fiery destruction upon the Geats. During this time, Beowulf can already sense his own death approaching, and so he decides to fight the dragon. He defeats the dragon with the help of Wiglaf. Only, the dragon bites Beowulf in the neck, and kills him with his venom. Because Beowulf died, the Geats start to fear that their enemies will attack them.

The Geats then cremate Beowulf’s body on a huge funeral pyre and then bury him with treasure in a tower overlooking the sea to remember his memory.

Let’s Check In!
Answer the following questions:

1. What makes the setting (time and place) appropriate for an Anglo-Saxon story during the ancient times?
2. How would you describe Beowulf? What makes him an ideal ancient Anglo-Saxon character?
3. Describe the battles that Beowulf faced and how the company of men reacted every time he won a battle.
4. What values does the character of Beowulf represent in the Anglo-Saxon context? What do the monsters represent?
5. What do you think is the theme of the epic?
6. Do you think that this kind of bravery is still valued today? Why? Why not?
7. What does the story reveal about the values of the Anglo-Saxon community?
Check Your Understanding

Identify what is being described in the statements below:

1. The subject of epics
2. The king of Denmark who needed help from Beowulf
3. Beowulf's kingdom
4. Symbol of Beowulf's triumph over evil and peace in Denmark
5. The power of Beowulf's sword
6. The ones who rewarded Beowulf after his feat against Grendel's mother
7. The creature that killed Beowulf in his old age

Let’s Step Up!

How similar or different is Beowulf to our local epic heroes? Choose one Filipino hero that you have learned about (fictional or otherwise) and write a comparative analysis paper, relating it to a current social or political issue.

Let’s Revisit The Essentials!

Go back to the essential question on the introduction page and discuss in class.
Performance Task

Short Film Adaptation

Goal: Your task is to help preserve an English epic through media.

Role: You are part of a young film-making group and you would like to help preserve ancient English literature that is slowly being forgotten by the young generation.

Audience: Your audience is the youth of the next generation who will watch your short film on social media.

Situation: The challenge involves research on the details of the story by reading a condensed version of Beowulf.

Product/Performance and Purpose:

- Create a short film adaptation of Beowulf using a camera.
- Make sure your film does not exceed 10 minutes.
- Assign the following roles: director, scriptwriter, actor 1, actor 2, and cinematographer.
- Add roles as you add more members.
- Remember to highlight the elements of the story in the adaptation.

Standards & Criteria for Success:

Your work will be judged by looking at the following:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Criteria</th>
<th>Beginning (0-12 points)</th>
<th>Developing (13-16 points)</th>
<th>Accomplished (17-20 points)</th>
<th>Score</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>General</td>
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<tr>
<td>Content (Complete plot elements)</td>
<td>Lacks 2 or more plot elements</td>
<td>Lacks one plot element</td>
<td>Has all the complete plot elements</td>
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<tr>
<td>Narrative</td>
<td>Two or more</td>
<td>One scene</td>
<td>The scenes</td>
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<tr>
<td>Task-specific</td>
<td>Structure (Logical progression of details/event.)</td>
<td>Language (spelling, mechanics, grammar and usage)</td>
<td>Creativity of shots</td>
<td>Use of dialogue</td>
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<td></td>
<td>scenes are not in their right order, making the organization confusing</td>
<td>makes the story disorganized or unchronologically organized in the film</td>
<td>were effectively and chronologically organized in the film</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>More than 3 errors were found</td>
<td>One to three language error/s were found</td>
<td>No language error was found</td>
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<td></td>
<td>More than 2 shots were not purposive and bland.</td>
<td>One-two shots were not purposive and bland.</td>
<td>All of the shots were taken with creative angle.</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>More than one set of dialogue does not show accurately the character/s' personality and relationship with other characters</td>
<td>One set of dialogue does not show accurately the character/s' personality and relationship with other characters</td>
<td>The dialogues are interesting because they show the characters' personalities and relationships with each other.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Only half of the characters gave justice to their role using appropriate verbal and non-verbal expressions.</td>
<td>Most of the characters gave justice to their role using appropriate verbal and non-verbal expressions.</td>
<td>All of the characters gave justice to their role using appropriate verbal and non-verbal expressions.</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>More than 3 aspects of the set, props, and costumes used were far approximation of</td>
<td>One-two aspects of the set, props, or costumes were far approximation</td>
<td>Set, props, and costumes used were very close approximation of the actual scene in the</td>
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<tr>
<td>Skills</td>
<td>I think I need more practice and assistance</td>
<td>I am familiar and can perform well with minimal assistance</td>
<td>I am confident that I can perform this on my own</td>
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<td>I can identify the distinguishing features of Anglo-American literature.</td>
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<td>I can identify literary elements of Anglo-American literature during the ancient period.</td>
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<td>I can analyze the literary works that characterize the period.</td>
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<td>I can describe the sociocultural context of the literary period.</td>
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Total Score:
Wrap Up

- English and American history were both characterized by war for domination, political and social upheavals, struggle for independence, and rise to power.
- Anglo-American literature has retained most of its classic genres like poetry, fiction, essay, and drama, but as time passed by, writers have found ways to learn from the past traditions and create their own style as they are influenced by the emerging principles and socio-cultural realities.
- The most common literary elements during the Ancient Times are rhyme, alliteration, kenning, compounding, variation, and caesura.
- Beowulf remains to be the oldest epic poem in Old English. It reflects the values of ancient Anglo-Saxon community.

Bibliography


