

History of English Literature Timeline

Old Literature (858-1100) Middle Ages (1100-1500) Renaissance (1500-1660), Neo-Classical Age (1660-1798) 19th Century Literature (1799 to 1900) English Literature Since 1901. **Old Literature (858-1100)** : Anglo Saxon Norman Conquest (A landmark) Middle Ages (1100-1500) **Renaissance (1500-1660)** :Tudor (1485-1603) Elizabethan (1558-1603) Jacobean (1603-1625) Caroline (1625-1649) Late Renaissance (Puritans) (1625-1660) Neo-Classical Age (1660-1798) **Restoration Age (1660-1700)** : Augustan Literature Age of Sensibility 19th Century Literature Romanticism (1798-1837) Victorian Age (1837-1901) Edwardian Age English Literature Since 1901 (Modern Age) Modernism (1901-1939) Post Modernism (1940-21st Century)

Old Literature (858-1100) : People communicated the poems and literary works **orally** during the period under consideration. Writing was not given much importance.

The Anglo-Saxons were made up of **three tribes** who came to England through the North Sea route – **the Angles, Saxons, and Jutes**. The Anglo-Saxon age comprises about 600 years. English literature began on the Continent of Europe in the 5th century. It all began with the epic *Beowulf* whose author is not known (anonymous).

Beowulf is one of the most important works of that age. It is an epic poem which throws light on a young hero who fights and kills monsters to save the Danes. As a very old man, he dies, fighting a fiery dragon. It's all about the heroic deeds of the German Warrior which happened apparently in 5th&6th centuries. *Beowulf* is a 300 line poem and it was probably written 300 years later when 'written texts' came into existence. It was probably completed in the 8th Century. Apart from *Beowulf*, the works of **Caedmon** and **Cynewulf** are surviving examples of English poetry. **Caedmon** was said to have got the power of verse as a **divine gift**.

The characteristics of Anglo-Saxon Poetry are: It is full of adventure and fighting There is a fondness for sea Mostly ballads (long narrative stories in poems). The greatest Old English prose was the Anglo-Saxon Chronicle. King Alfred transformed it into a national history. A charming dialogue poem *The Owl and the Nightingale* was also popular (author unknown)

Norman (French) Conquest: Invasion of the Normans in England in the year 1066. The army consisted of the Norman, Breton and the French which was led by William the Conqueror. They brought the **French language** to England. French was adopted as the new language for the parliament. These people were initially sea rovers who inhabited Scandinavia, who later invaded the northern part of France which is until present day known as Normandy. Later they also picked up the French language.

Middle Ages (1100-1500): The most respected and famed writer of the middle age was **Geoffrey Chaucer**. He is known as **the father-figure in** English literature. In the 13th century, the English literature prospered at a distinguished rate. Chaucer introduced the Iambic Pentameter. His greatest works are mostly narratives like *The Canterbury Tales*, *The House of Fame* etc.

FROM CHAUCER TO 'TOTTEL'S MISCELLANY' (1340 – 1557) : Chaucer lived during a period of rapid political changes. Due to trade, wealth expanded. He was born in London. His business at home and abroad brought him into contact with a variety of people. Hence, his genius was fed by his deep knowledge of life itself. His literary career is divided into three periods. They are his **French, Italian and English periods**. His genius was nourished on French poetry and romance. The reason was they were read by the court. His early work was done on French models. Due to his visits to Italy, the Italian influences took over. His longest single poem *Troilus and Cryseyde* is based on Boccaccio. Finally, Chaucer became English. But he continued to draw on French and Italian models. To the last period belong *The Canterbury Tales*, his most famous work.

The Canterbury Tales is a collection of stories (ballad) united by a general framework. A number of pilgrims meet at the Tabard Inn. By chance, Chaucer also stays there. He too joins them.

The pilgrims are on their way to the shrine of St. Thomas Becket at Canterbury. The host makes a proposal. Each pilgrim must tell two tales on the way to Canterbury. They must tell two tales on their return journey too. The host shall be the judge. The one who tells the best tale would be treated by others to a supper. The suggestion is accepted and the Canterbury Tales are the result. All this is explained in the prologue. Chaucer proceeds to introduce his fellow-pilgrims. In the description, Chaucer's powers are at their highest. The prologue is a masterpiece of insight and humour. But the work is a fragment (incomplete) of twenty-four tales. The tales are not original in theme. Chaucer took his raw material from different sources. But whatever he borrows, he makes it entirely his own.

He remains one of the most delightful English story-tellers in verse. His finest work as a narrative poet is *Knights Tale*. It is heroic in subject and romantic in tone. It is a tale of the heroic age of Greece. It pictures the middle-ages accurately. Chaucer took little serious interest in social reform. He holds the mirror up to the life of his time. He may rightly be called 'the morning star of Renaissance'. **William Langland** was a contemporary of Chaucer. His *Piers the Plowman*, an enormous poem, runs to nearly 15,000 lines. The poem is confused and almost formless. But its moral quality is dominant. He attacks the social abuses of the day. The clergy and those in high places are accused of greed. Langland's spirit is puritan and democratic. He was deeply moved by the misery of the masses. He tried to bring English religion back to simplicity and purity.

After Chaucer and Langland, there was a barren period. The great prose work *Morte D'Arthur* was produced by **Sir Thomas Malory**. This work deals with the legend of King Arthur and his Knights of the Round Table. It holds a high place in literary history. It has inspired many modern poets. *Utopia* by Sir Thomas More was written in Latin. It was translated into English later. It describes an ideal state. It talks of ideal life, government and religion. Ralph Robinson translated the work into English. **Thomas Wyatt and the Earl of Surrey** wrote **sonnets** on love. Surrey was the first to use blank verse. Tottel's Miscellany (prose work) was published in 1557. This work marked the dawn of the new age.

The Origin of Drama: (Mystery, Miracle and Morality Plays) : Medieval theatre included Mysteries, Miracle and Morality plays. The Miracle and Morality plays are to be discussed because these two are the ones which are widely used.

(A) **Miracle plays** – They are also known as Saints play as they present a real or fictitious account of their life. They are the principal kind of vernacular drama of European Middle Ages. By the 13th century, they became vernacularized. In miracle plays, the actual story revolves around the main characters and on the other hand, the other characters were short reckoned or undervalued. Comic scenes were also a part of Miracle plays. Moreover, there were devil characters present in those plays. The structure of the play is basically unpleasant.

It is based on the **Biblical story** of the life of the religious persons. The Miracle plays were banned in England because of the teachings of the Roman Catholic. The language of the play shifted to English because that made the play less religious. Moreover, they were performing in town festivals. Most plays were about Saint Nicolas and Virgin Mary.

(B) **Morality Plays** – In morality plays, the protagonist of the play generally meets various **moral attributes** through personification. The other characters in the play signify moral qualities and the **hero of the play represents mankind and humanity**. Supporting characters in the play are personifications of either good or bad. So, moral lessons can be learned from these plays. The hero or the protagonist shows the difference between good and bad.

These types of plays were developed at the later 14th c. It gained more popularity in the 15th c.

Renaissance (1500-1660) & Elizabethan Era (1558-1603)– The word Renaissance implies the rebirth of culture and learning. Renaissance was initially started at Italy in the late 14th century. The European scholars and writers found that Renaissance was doing good at Italy. So, at around 1500

they brought the Renaissance literature in England. This age is one of the most important in the History of English Literature.

There are several factors for the coming of Renaissance literature in England. They are: the **introduction of the printing press**. It made it possible for the writers to produce written works. **the 'plague' in England has passed** and the **hundred years' wars were over**. The productivity of people at that time had increased as people lived longer because they weren't dying or fighting. After Chaucer passed away the English literature became dull in England. The standard of literature became low. So, people have to adopt Renaissance which was doing really great in Italy

THE AGE OF SHAKESPEARE: These Morality Plays enjoyed great freedom with plot and characters. The Interlude was a late product of the development. It meant any short dramatic piece. In tone, it was less serious than the Morality Plays. These early experiments are historically important. They did much to prepare the way for the regular drama. The first person to come on the list is **William Shakespeare**. Besides him, there are few other writers who gained popularity due to their writings like, **Christopher Marlowe, Ben Jonson** etc. Shakespeare coined a lot of words by his own.

According to scholars, he is responsible for coining around 1700 words. His works are said to be universal for which it got more prevalent. He made the English vocabulary damn rich. A word which is used widely, 'beautiful' was coined by Shakespeare. It's hard to imagine such an indispensable word not being used before him. He also came up with a genre called, 'Tragi-Comedy' which implies the merging through two words tragedy and comedy. His famous plays are *Julius Caesar, Romeo and Juliet, Hamlet, Macbeth, Merchant of Venice* etc.

According to some scholars, **Marlowe and Shakespeare** were rivals in this field. People also suspected Marlowe to be a secret agent of Queen Elizabeth. One of his most famous work is '*Dr. Faustus*', where he talks about the tragical history of the life and death of Doctor Faustus. He also wrote *The Jew of Malta* which got popular during that period. He died when he was 29. The third popular dramatist or playwright was **Ben Jonson**. He is well known for his satirical plays. Some of the famous works of him are **Volpone, The Alchemist** etc.

Elizabethan era was the period of new ideas and new thinking. Various other works like fine arts endured support and assistance from the Queen. Due to the Queen's support and patron, the works of that time came to be known as 'Elizabethan'. This period is generally regarded as the greatest in the history of English literature. The age saw a great flourishing in literature. The poetry and dramas were prospered more, in particular. Three most important and remarkable writers of that period are **William Shakespeare, Christopher Marlowe, and Ben Jonson**.

There were three types of **Sonnet** – Shakespearean Sonnet, Petrarchan Sonnet, and Spenserian Sonnet. Sir Wyatt brought Sonnet from Italy which was later popularized in England. Later, they gave a different style to the sonnets. It was being changed by Shakespeare. He divided the Sonnet into 3 quatrains summed by a couplet. **Shakespeare**, in his career, wrote **154** sonnets. He dedicated 126 of them to a young man and the others to a woman.

Classical Drama : The Elizabethan dramatists like Sir Philip Sydney wanted to imitate ancient models. They supported the Senecan or 'classic' species of play. But writers like Shakespeare cared for public amusement. The principles of classical drama were rigid. It adhered rigorously to unity of subject. Hence, it kept the spheres of comedy and tragedy entirely separate. A tragedy had to be a tragedy from first to last. No humour was permitted in it.

Similarly, no tragic element was allowed to enter a comedy. There was little dramatic action on the stage. The action was reported to the audience. **The three unities of time, place and action** controlled the construction. The entire story of a play had to be confined to a day. There would be no sub-plots or minor episodes. It had to be educative in nature. These principles came to English

drama from the Latin poet Seneca's plays. But the romantic or Shakespearean drama was of the opposite type.

University Wits : A group of playwrights who had their University education were commonly known as "University Wits" (Shakespeare did not have University Education). They were all men of academic learning. They had absorbed the spirit of new learning in Oxford and Cambridge Universities. They were **John Lyly, Thomas Kyd, George Peele, Thomas Lodge, Robert Greene, Christopher Marlowe and Thomas Nash**. (Two of them are very important)

John Lyly wrote **eight** comedies. These were all written for the court. Lyly helped to give comedy an intellectual tone. He also combined courtly main plot with clownish fooling. In comedy, he was Shakespeare's first master. **Christopher Marlowe's** importance is even greater. He was by nature a lyric poet than a dramatist. Marlowe introduced blank verse to the romantic drama. His *Tamburlaine the Great, Dr. Faustus, The Jew of Malta* and *Edward II* inspired Shakespeare.

William Shakespeare : William Shakespeare was from a middle class family. He was first an actor and then a playwright. Translations gave him easy access to the treasures of ancient literature. In his writings, creative imagination is combined with a sound common sense. His dramatic work comprises of **37 plays**. The authenticity of several of these is doubtful. His activity as a writer extended for 24 years. Shakespeare's critics sub-divide this period into four periods.

i) **1588-1593** : **The early period** was to a large extent experimental. He revised old plays such as three parts of 'Henry VI' and 'Titus Andronicus'. To this period belong his first comedies like 'Love's Labours Lost', 'The Two Gentleman of Verona' and 'A Midsummer Night's Dream'. 'Richard III', a chronicle drama and 'Romeo and Juliet', a tragedy, were written during this period. There is little depth and the art is immature.

ii) **1594-1600**: This was the period of the great comedies and chronicle plays. Shakespeare's work becomes independent. There is immense development in technique. It is massive in quality and there is maturity in thought. The youthful crudeness disappears. The humour and characterization become deep.

iii) **1601-1608** : This was a period of the great tragedies. His powers were at their highest. This was the time of the supreme masterpieces. He is pre-occupied with the darker side of human experience. The sins and weaknesses of men form the base of his plots. 'Julius Caesar', 'Hamlet', 'Othello', 'King Lear', 'Macbeth' and 'Antony and Cleopatra' were written during this period.

iv) **1608-1612** : There is a sudden change in the temper of his work. The sky grows clear towards sunset. Evil is conquered by the good. There is a decline in the dramatist's powers. His plays form the greatest single body of work. His greatness lies in his variety. He was at home in tragedy and comedy. He is the most often quoted of English writers. No one has created so many men and women who are accepted as alive. His vocabulary runs to some 15,000 words. In short, he is the greatest dramatist. Shakespeare's non-dramatic poetry consists of two narrative poems *Venus and Adonis* and *Lucrece*. A sequence of 154 sonnets was also written by him. They contain the finest lyrical poetry of the time. They record a disastrous love and broken friendship.

Ben Jonson : He was a contemporary of Shakespeare. But Jonson's principles were different. He opened his career with the satiric comedy *Everyman in His Humour*.. His plays fall into **three groups**, namely, court masques, historical tragedies and comedies. The best comedies are *The Alchemist*, *Volpone* or 'The Fox' and *Epicoene* or 'The Silent Woman'. He was a realist and his comedies reflect London life. His aim was to amuse and thereby correct and teach. He also takes Latin comedy as his model. His characterization is based on a specific idea.

Jonson labels his characters with names to indicate their qualities.. For instance, Downright, Morose, Well-bred and so on. His work is the product of learning and not of creative power. But Jonson is historically very important. He was the real founder of the '**Comedy of Manners**'.

Shakespearean Stage : To begin with, the plays were performed in the open spaces. Later, two play houses were built. But by the end of Elizabeth's reign, there were at least eleven. Shakespeare was closely connected to '**The Globe**' and '**Black friars**'.

Actors had to obtain licenses from patrons. The playhouses were very small and made of wood. The stage and the boxes had thatched roofs. The boxes were occupied by the wealthy. Some of them sat on the stage itself. The 'groundlings' or 'the pit audience' sat on the ground. Movable scenery was not in use. Stage properties and placards were freely used. Normally, dramas began in the afternoon by three and lasted for two hours. There were no actresses on the stage. Women's roles were played by boys.

Francis Bacon : Bacon was the principal prose master of his time. He wrote volumes on many subjects. His greatest works are 'Advancement of Learning' and 'Novum Organum'. His 'Essays' are based on the **French thinker Montaigne**. But the matter and manner are entirely Bacon's own. They are loaded with the ripest wisdom. They are also highly Latinized. He is remembered for his epigrammatic force. He has the power of packing his thoughts in the smallest possible space.

Even though this age produced a lot of prose works, essentially it was an age of poetry. Moreover, the theatre became central to the Elizabethan era. During that era, drama shifted from religious to secular. The first English comedy was '**Gammer Gurton's Needle**' and the first tragedy was '**Gorboduc**'. They came in this period. One of the biggest comedy play written at that time was '**Every Man in his Humour**'. Some of the characteristics or features of play are:

- Plays were presented quickly. The actors use their voice, bodies expressively to convey feeling and meaning.
- Plays were generally performed at the time of the afternoon. It is because there were no light facilities available. Special effects were a part of the show.
- Women were not allowed to perform as there was the existence of gender inequality. The males only played as females.
- The Wealthy people bought the best seats. Sometimes they even sat on the stage itself.
- Even the illiterates could understand the play.
- The theatre is also seen as a good mode of business in that period.

Edmund Spenser: He was the greatest non-dramatic poet of his age. Edmund Spenser's **Shepherd's Calendar** opened the 'Golden Age' of Elizabethan literature. It is divided into twelve parts, one for each month of the year. The poet writes of his unfortunate love for one Rosalind. Spenser's fame rests mainly on **Faery Queene**, a fragment (unfinished). Spenser planned to write a poem of twelve parts. But only six were published during his life time. The poet's scheme is explained in a letter to his friend Sir Walter Raleigh. The Fairy Queen keeps her annual feast for twelve days. On each day, a knight at her command undertakes an adventure. Each adventure forms the subject of one book.

Prince Arthur, the legendary hero, appears in each story at a crucial moment. In short, King Arthur links all the stories. 'The Faery Queene' is not simply a romance. It is a didactic romance. The work is inspired by a high moral and religious aim. The poet uses his stories as vehicles of the lessons he wished to convey. Each adventure represents the temptations of each virtue. The ultimate triumph of each virtue, with the help of Divine power is projected. Arthur is the incarnation of Divine power.

His **Amoretti**, a series of 88 sonnets, describes his love for **Elizabeth Boyle**. He married her. The event inspired **Epithalamium**, the noblest wedding hymn in the language. He has been rightly called 'the poet's poet'.

A new kind of poetry began with John Donne. He initiated the '**metaphysical**' school of poetry. Donne was a celebrated preacher. He wrote songs, sonnets, marriage poems, elegies and satires. All these are characterized by genuine poetic feeling, harsh metres and turns of speech called 'conceits'.

Jacobean Era (1603-1625) – Jacobean Era comes just after the Elizabethan era. The two primary contribution of this age in English literature is **the Revenge play and Metaphysical poetry**. Revenge play signifies the plays where the victim is retaliated or avenged. These types of plays often results in the death of both the murderer and the avenger. These types of plays were extremely popular during the Elizabethan and the Jacobean era. Some of the best writers of plays of this kind are **Thomas Kyd, Shakespeare** etc.

Secondly, there was the wide popularity of **metaphysical poetry**. The term ‘metaphysical poetry’ was **coined later** by **Samuel Johnson**. This type of poetry is witty and ingenious. They are also highly philosophical. Some of the topics on which metaphysical poems are written are love, existence, life etc. Simile, metaphors, imagery and other literary elements are used in writing these poems.

One of **the greatest lyricists** of that era was **John Donne**. He was famous for his unconventional and metaphysical style of poetry. He wrote short sonnets and love poems. Two of his most popular poems are – *The Sun Rising* and *The Canonization*.

Caroline Era (1625-1649) – This era coincided with the age of Charles I (1625-1642). During that time, a **civil war** was fought between the **supporters of the king (Cavaliers)** and the **supporters of the parliament (Roundheads)**.

Some of the prominent writers of that era are George Herbert, Henry Vaughan, Katherine Philips, John Donne etc.

Puritan Age (1625-1660) : The half-century between the years 1625 and 1675 is known as the Puritan age. The age is named ‘Puritan Age’ because of the Puritan dominance in England for the first time. Furthermore, the greatest literary figures of that time were Puritans. One remarkable figure was **John Milton**. Some of his popular works are:

Paradise Lost (1667), *Paradise Regained* (1671) *On Shakespeare* (1632), *Doctrine and Discipline of Divorce* (1643) and his **Holy Sonnets**.

Milton became most famous for the poem, *Paradise Lost*. It was a poem with religious beliefs.

The Puritans closed the Theatre which was given much importance in the Elizabethan era. There was a Civil war during that period. One group of people supported the King (Cavaliers) and the other supported the Parliament (Roundheads). The ones supporting parliament won. So, as a result, Charles I was removed and Oliver Cromwell came into power. To sum up in one line, ‘The Puritan age starts with Charles I beheaded and Oliver Cromwell into the rule’. Cromwell built a commonwealth of members which didn’t last long. After him, Charles II from France came into power and Restoration began.

Neo-Classical Age (1660-1798) / Restoration Age/ Augustan Age/ The Age of Dryden

The word ‘Neo-Classical’ is merged with the two words ‘Neo’ and ‘Classical’. Neo implies ‘new’ and classical denotes the ‘Roman and Greek classics’. This era is also known as the era of enlightenment. People in England would meet at the coffee house and talk about productive things. It started the British tradition of ‘afternoon tea’. Popular types of literature include parody, letters, essays, and satire. People were interested in appearance, not in the being genuine. Having good manners and doing the right thing to the public was essential.

This age is divided into three parts: Restoration Period Augustan Literature & Age of Sensibility
Restoration Period (1660-1700) – The restoration age begins in 1660. In the restoration period, Charles II was restored to the throne. There was a complete rejection of ideas. People had a different way of living as compared to the other ages. A lot of changes took place during that period. Monarchy was restored in England. Charles II, brother of Charles I who was defeated and beheaded returned to England from France. He became the king there.

Most importantly, the Theatre closed down by the Puritans was restored. John Dryden, the greatest of all the poets of this age, established heroic couplet in English Poetry. He developed a new prose style that was suited to the practical needs of the age.

Charles II and his followers enjoyed a gay life in France during the exile. Later, when he came to England, he demanded that drama should follow the French style of writing.

John Dryden's text, *Absalom and Achitophel* talks about the religious and political conflict. The religious quarrel between the Protestants and the Catholics are also portrayed in his book.

There was the rise of the **two political parties** – the **Whigs and the Tories**. The Tories supported the king and the Whigs opposed it. Here are some of the chief characteristics of this period. This age was the beginning of modern prose.

Charles II wanted to establish Catholicism in the country. As the entire country was Protestant it leads to a conflict between the two. Charles II became infamous for this act. As a consequence, this led to a revolution which is known as the '**Bloodless Revolution**'. It took place in 1688.

Augustan Literature – The Augustan age was a Roman Empire age. King Augustus was the emperor of that time. Some of the most famous Augustan writers are Virgil, Horace etc. Major poets of that age are Pope and Dryden. And on the other hand, **Jonathan Swift** was famous for his prose works.

This age is also known as **Classical age**. The first half of the 18th century was marked by the preparation of Industrial revolution. The main social classes were merchants, landowners, and manufacturers. The condition of women was not satisfactory. Sexual harassment, abduction of women, forced marriage took place in the period. The politicians were corrupt too. This is the age of material greed.

John Dryden lived between the Restoration and Augustan age. He wrote various comedies. But the attribute for which he was highly admired was his verse satires. His followers and other small poets valued this writing style.

Alexander Pope was the biggest name of this period. He basically wrote on harmony. The heroic couplet is famous in his poems. One of his famous works is *The rape of the Lock*.

Age of Sensibility (1750-1798)- The age of Sensibility is also known as the **age of Johnson**. Two most famous writers of this period are R. B. Sheridan and Oliver Goldsmith. Sheridan was a love poet. Most of the literary works of this age talk about human feelings, classicism and Romantic revival.

19th Century Literature (1799 to 1900): The 19th-century literature is **merged with three ages**. They are:

❖ Romanticism (1798-1837) Victorian Age (1837-1901) Edwardian Age (1901-1910)

Romanticism (1798-1837) – This period was mainly a reaction against the Romantic philosophy of Enlightenment period that dominated much of European Philosophy. Individual achievements are highly valued. Many of the Romantic writers believed that people regardless of wealth or social class must be able to appreciate art and literature.

Some of the **most famous poets** of the period are – **John Keats, William Blake, William Wordsworth, Thomas Grey** etc. The works were basically on the depiction of nature. They used personification frequently in the poems. The poets basically tried to bring out their inner feelings.

Victorian Age (1837-1901) – The Victorian era was one of the most important eras in the History of English Literature. Queen Victoria, at the age of 18 ruled England continuously for 64 years until her death. It is one of the longest reigns in the history of England. Many important social and historical changes altered the structure of the nation. The population of the country almost doubled. The British Empire expanded exponentially. Technology and industrial progress helped Britain to be one of the most dominant countries in the world.

The Victorian age was a time of great prosperity in the History of English Literature. This period made a lot of changes amongst people. The lower-class became more self-conscious but on the other hand, the middle-class people got more power in them. The rich became vulnerable in the society. Just like the Elizabethan England, The Victorian England saw a great expansion of prosperity, prestige, and culture. Some of the most trending topics of that time are the democracy, feminism, unionization of workers, Marxism, socialism etc.

Due to the industrial revolution, the country saw progress and growth. But along with that poverty and exploitation was also a part of it. The poor were hired for industrial labor at a very low rate.

The Victorian period was a time of contradiction, often referred to as the Victorian Compromise. There were differences between science and religion. Various conflicts arose due to these differences. Secondly, the gap between the rich and the poor widened drastically. The poor starting becoming poorer and the rich started becoming richer. The wealthy or the rich people hired the labors at a very cheap rate.

The Victorian novels depicted almost every perspective of nineteenth-century Victorian life. Though poetry and prose were unquestionably brilliant, it was the novel that conclusively proved to be the Victorians special literary success. Charles Dickens, *Great Expectations*, and David Copperfield are some of the most prominent authors.

Charles Darwin wrote *Origin of the Species* which caused full-scale controversy in Europe. Darwin in his book wrote that the species survive and evolve by natural selection, or in other words, it's the survival of the fittest. This led to a debate among the Victorian people which also led to the alteration of their intellectual and religious life. Another most popular author of the period under consideration was Lord Alfred Tennyson. He wrote *In Memoriam* which talks about the reflection on the death of his friend.

The Edwardian Age (1901-1910) – After the death of Queen Victoria, Edward VII came into the throne. His throne at England is known as the Edwardian age. It lasted less than a decade. Even though Queen Victoria, a lady was on the throne for the last 64 years, she was unable to do something for the upliftment of women. But in this era, the women status in the society seems to increase. Science and technology were also developed. Wright brothers invented the first airplane during that time.

H.G Wells, Beatrix Potter, Lucy Maud Montgomery, Edith Nesbit were some of the renowned writers of the age.

English Literature Since 1901

Modernism (1901-1939) – Literature from various parts of the world started spreading. New writers were tried to impersonate the glory of British writers. Women at the time were suppressed in the literary sense. They were not allowed to write freely.

Post-Modernism (1940-21st Century) – In post-modernism, basically the history of English Literature of 5 geo-locations are being studied. They are – African, Australian, Canadian, Caribbean and Indian Literature.