

Notes on the Medieval Period  
British Literature page 159

1. In 1066 A.D., the English King \_\_\_\_\_ died and the Witan declared \_\_\_\_\_ king.
2. However, William, \_\_\_\_\_, claimed the kingship and invaded England, defeating Harold at the Battle of Hastings.
3. In the four years that followed, the Normans killed most of the native English \_\_\_\_\_, subjugated the rest of the \_\_\_\_\_, and divided the country into estates or \_\_\_\_\_, ruled by French-speaking barons loyal to William the Conqueror.
4. The Norman Conquest brought an end to the Anglo-Saxon era and ushered in the \_\_\_\_\_.
5. The Norman Conquest shattered \_\_\_\_\_.
6. For 200 years, English became a \_\_\_\_\_ spoken by the poor and powerless.
7. Norman French was the language of the \_\_\_\_\_ and noble \_\_\_\_\_.
8. The production of \_\_\_\_\_ written in English came to a near standstill.
9. Some \_\_\_\_\_ continued to produce works in English and the \_\_\_\_\_ continued to compose oral songs, but very little of this survives today.
10. Most of the non-Latin literature written was written in \_\_\_\_\_, called Anglo-Norman Literature.
11. The literature tends to be \_\_\_\_\_, keeping with the character of the Norman people.
12. However, the French did import some literature containing \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_. They also wrote \_\_\_\_\_, or songs.
13. One important innovation introduced by the Normans was poetry written in \_\_\_\_\_.
14. From the time of the Conquest to 1202, \_\_\_\_\_ remained part of England. After England lost Normandy, the French influence declined.
15. By the middle of the century, the upper classes began to adopt the native language again, and English became the \_\_\_\_\_ of both the upper and lower classes.
16. William the Conqueror brought \_\_\_\_\_ to England.
17. Feudalism—the system by which Europe was ruled in the Middle Ages. All \_\_\_\_\_ and all \_\_\_\_\_ ultimately belonged to the king, who granted large tracts of land to members of the nobility, known as \_\_\_\_\_.
18. The \_\_\_\_\_ were bound to be loyal to the king, to raise \_\_\_\_\_ to fight in his battles, and to \_\_\_\_\_ to support his court.
19. In turn, the barons granted land to \_\_\_\_\_ and required service and support from them.

20. At the very bottom were \_\_\_\_\_, known as \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, or \_\_\_\_\_ who lived and worked on the nobles' land.
21. The life of a \_\_\_\_\_ was pretty miserable.
22. They were \_\_\_\_\_ of their feudal lords and could not leave the land or even \_\_\_\_\_ without permission.
23. They lived on \_\_\_\_\_, suffered terribly from \_\_\_\_\_, and worked very hard only to turn over much of what they produced to the lord's household.
24. Occasionally, a serf could earn \_\_\_\_\_ by some exceptional service to the lord's family.
25. Gradually, throughout the Medieval Period, a class of \_\_\_\_\_ developed that included merchants, \_\_\_\_\_, laborers, and \_\_\_\_\_.
26. In a feudal society, each person is bound by a system of loyalties known as a \_\_\_\_\_. So, a serf might be a vassal to a knight and the knight might be a vassal to a duke and the duke might be a vassal to an earl and the earl might be a vassal to the king. The king was considered a vassal to the Pope, the head of the Roman Catholic Church.
27. At no time in history has the \_\_\_\_\_ been more influential than in the Medieval Period.
28. Throughout this time period, the \_\_\_\_\_, centered in Rome, had tremendous wealth and power. Considerable resources went in to building towering \_\_\_\_\_.
29. The head of the Catholic Church was the \_\_\_\_\_, and below him was a variety of officials (cardinals, archbishops, bishops, priests).
30. Many \_\_\_\_\_ served as government officials, and the Church and government often collaborated.
31. England can be considered a "house with two \_\_\_\_\_" and political leaders often \_\_\_\_\_ with the clergy.
32. Such a quarrel led to the murder of \_\_\_\_\_, the Archbishop of \_\_\_\_\_, by barons loyal to Henry II.
33. Much of Medieval literature deals with religious \_\_\_\_\_.
34. Surviving works included the retelling of Biblical \_\_\_\_\_, biographies of \_\_\_\_\_, collections of \_\_\_\_\_, tracts on the seven deadly \_\_\_\_\_ and the seven cardinal \_\_\_\_\_, and so on.
35. *Memento mori*—"\_\_\_\_\_"—death comes soon and without warning so be prepared
36. *Contemptu mundi*—"\_\_\_\_\_"—dislike for worldly values
37. From the 11th to 13th c., the church sponsored a series of \_\_\_\_\_, or holy wars, to recapture Jerusalem from the Moslems.
38. This influenced literature by introducing the Persian idea of the \_\_\_\_\_, typically the Virgin Mary.

39. The devout people of the Medieval Period often went on journeys or \_\_\_\_\_ to visit holy sites.
40. *The Canterbury Tales*, written by \_\_\_\_\_, describes a group of people taking such a journey to Canterbury, England.
41. The Crusades and devotion to the Virgin Mary influenced the development of a unique literature known as a \_\_\_\_\_.
42. A romance portrays the standards of \_\_\_\_\_ known as \_\_\_\_\_.
43. Even though Medieval romances may have dealt with love, they were stories of \_\_\_\_\_.
44. Romances told the stories of \_\_\_\_\_—their battles, crusades, and tournaments—and, incidentally, the love that inspired these actions.
45. \_\_\_\_\_—a series of loosely connected adventures that test the knight's \_\_\_\_\_ (loyalty, honesty, gentleness, faith, courtesy, skill, and courage). The trial may take the form of a \_\_\_\_\_, a journey to some far off place to do some mighty deed. (like the quest for the Holy Grail)
46. \_\_\_\_\_—often the trial was undertaken to rescue a fair lady (idealization of women)
47. \_\_\_\_\_ was the code of behavior between women and their suitors.
48. The most famous English romance is the tale of \_\_\_\_\_ and his knights of the Round Table.
49. \_\_\_\_\_ were songs of the common people.
50. Characteristics: 4 line \_\_\_\_\_, Simple \_\_\_\_\_, Served as \_\_\_\_\_ and recorded \_\_\_\_\_ that captured the popular imagination
51. Medieval \_\_\_\_\_ were initially performed by the Church and told Bible stories or stories of the saints' lives.
52. Gradually, these moved out of the churches and were performed in \_\_\_\_\_ of inns
53. Three types of plays:  
 \_\_\_\_\_ plays: told stories from the \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_ plays: told stories of the \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_ plays: represented abstract \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ as characters
54. Politically, the Medieval Period in England was one of \_\_\_\_\_.
55. The feudal system was \_\_\_\_\_.
56. Henry II introduced a system of traveling \_\_\_\_\_ whose rulings were to make up the common law that still provides the basis for the legal system of England and the United States
57. Legislative government, called \_\_\_\_\_, was created.
58. After the death of Henry II, his son \_\_\_\_\_ taxed the barons so much and made so many enemies that he was forced to sign the \_\_\_\_\_, or "great charter," which limited the \_\_\_\_\_ of

- the king, made him subject to the rulings of \_\_\_\_\_, and guaranteed a trial by a \_\_\_\_\_ of one's peers.
59. From 1339 to 1453, England fought the \_\_\_\_\_ over possession of French lands.
  60. The English won because of the introduction of the \_\_\_\_\_ to warfare.
  61. In 1381, the \_\_\_\_\_, led by Jack Straw and Wat Tyler, saw peasants fighting for individual \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.
  62. Promotion of learning—\_\_\_\_\_ Universities were founded
  63. Towns and cities grew around \_\_\_\_\_ mills.
  64. Merchants and artists organized themselves into \_\_\_\_\_ responsible for training \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ business.
  65. A \_\_\_\_\_ emerged.
  66. In the mid-1300s, \_\_\_\_\_, or Black Death, devastated England, killing 1/3 of its inhabitants.
  67. \_\_\_\_\_, a religious reformer, finished the first complete translation of the Bible into English.
  68. For the first time, \_\_\_\_\_ could read and interpret the text on their own.
  69. This set the stage for the \_\_\_\_\_.
  70. \_\_\_\_\_ introduced printing from movable type to England.
  71. For the first time, \_\_\_\_\_ were easily made in large quantities, thus spreading \_\_\_\_\_.
  72. This helped cause the decline of the \_\_\_\_\_.
  73. From 1455-1485, England was torn by civil war between two noble houses. The House of \_\_\_\_\_ (red rose) fought the House of \_\_\_\_\_ (white rose) for the throne in what was known as the War of the Roses.
  74. \_\_\_\_\_ (Lancaster) was defeated by Henry Tudor (York) and became \_\_\_\_\_.