

高等学校英语专业规划教材

——英美文学系列



# 《英美文学简明教程》

## 学习指南

● 张伯香 张 文 主编

*A* Guide to An Introductory Course  
Book of English and American Literatures



华中科技大学出版社

<http://www.hustp.com>

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A Guide to  
*An Introductory Course Book of English and  
American Literatures*

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华中科技大学出版社  
中国·武汉

图书在版编目(CIP)数据

《英美文学简明教程》学习指南/张伯香,张文主编. —武汉:华中科技大学出版社,2015.7  
英美文学名家教程  
ISBN 978-7-5680-1101-3

I. ①英… II. ①张… ②张… III. ①英语-阅读教学-高等学校-教材 ②英国文学-文学欣赏 ③文学欣赏-美国 IV. ①H319.4:I

中国版本图书馆 CIP 数据核字(2015)第 169860 号

《英美文学简明教程》学习指南

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出版发行:华中科技大学出版社(中国·武汉)

武昌喻家山 邮编:430074 电话:(027)81321913

录 排:华中科技大学惠友文印中心

印 刷:武汉中远印务有限公司

开 本:787mm×1092mm 1/16

印 张:31.5

字 数:785千字

版 次:2015年10月第1版第1次印刷

定 价:58.00元



本书若有印装质量问题,请向出版社营销中心调换  
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## 前 言

《英美文学简明教程》出版以后深受广大读者的喜爱。不少高校将它作为英语专业本科生文学课教材;许多自学考试英语专业本科生、英语专业函授本科生以及报考英美文学专业研究生的同学对本教材也表现出了极大的兴趣;同时,好些读者还给编者发来热情洋溢的信件,表达他们对使用教材后的感受和意见,并希望提供教师手册或学习指南,以方便教师备课和学生自学。读者们的厚爱,给了出版社和编者极大的鼓舞。

由于《英美文学简明教程》所选作品都是原文,它们在词汇运用、句子结构、表达方式、修辞手法、思维习惯等方面都给中国学生带来了理解上的困难;而如何深刻地了解作品复杂的主旨结构、探索其丰富的思想内涵,欣赏其精湛的艺术技巧对中国学生来说更是一种严峻的挑战。为了帮助同学们更好地理解英美文学原著,在较短的时间内洞察这些经典作品的奥妙所在,掌握赏析文学作品的方法,我们特地组织老师编写了这部《〈英美文学简明教程〉学习指南》(以下简称《指南》)。

本《指南》分为英国文学和美国文学两部分,共十二章。每章包括三大部分。第一部分是概述,重点介绍本章的背景知识、文学思潮、文学特色、主要作家与作品,以及学习本章的重点提示和考点综述等内容,其目的是让读者从宏观上把握本章的学习内容。第二部分是作家与作品简介,包括教材所选作家及主要作品的简短描述、选读作品的赏析、思考题的参考答案等,其目的是让读者从微观上把握本章的学习内容。第三部分是补充练习和参考答案(包括历年考研真题精选与模拟),让考生在掌握前面知识点的基础上,巩固所学知识,测试所学效果。此外,本《指南》还在附录中提供了常用的英美文学术语(英汉对照)和四套英美文学考试题。

为方便读者更好地理解本书的内容,并运用所学知识正确地回答问题,本《指南》使用汉、英两种语言撰写。各章概述和作家作品简介用汉语表述;选读作品赏析、思考题参考答案、补充练习和参考答案等用英语表述。

通过本《指南》的介绍、分析与问题回答,我们希望一方面能为高校学生和广大英语爱好者打开一扇认识和了解英美文学作品的大门,激起他们热爱英美文学、阅读英美文学作品的兴趣,另一方面,又能为他们欣赏和阅读英美文学作品提供一些有效的方法指导。对于英语专业本科生、自考生、函授生,尤其是那些想要报考英语专业硕士研究生的同学来说,阅读本《指南》将会大有裨益。

本《指南》在编写和出版过程中得到了华中科技大学出版社的领导和编辑们(特别是责任编辑)的多方关心和大力协助,在此我们谨表示衷心的感谢。

参加本《指南》编写工作的有路璐、罗城、孙平、孙灵、徐利红、张秀芳、张恂等老师。他们

在选材、撰稿、录入、校对等方面做了大量的工作。全书的内容设计、章节安排、文字修改和最后的通读定稿都由主编负责。由于多人执笔,风格难以统一,各种错误也在所难免,敬请广大读者批评指正。

张伯香

2015年6月于珞珈山

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上编  
英国文学

# 第1章 中古时期

## 1.1 概述

### 1.1.1 历史文化背景

凯尔特人是大不列颠岛上早期的居民。他们大约在公元前5世纪来到大不列颠定居。公元43年，罗马人征服了大不列颠，把她划为罗马帝国的一个省，并带入了罗马文明。公元5世纪初期，罗马帝国受到北欧日耳曼人的进攻，不得不把驻在大不列颠的军队撤回本土。5世纪中叶，日耳曼人中的盎格鲁-撒克逊、朱特等部落开始大批入侵大不列颠，并将凯尔特人驱赶到威尔士、苏格兰，甚至爱尔兰。盎格鲁-撒克逊人在占领的土地上逐步建立起自己的国家，并将她称作英格兰。公元11世纪中叶，诺曼人在威廉公爵的率领下征服了英格兰。对大不列颠的入侵与征服的结果在某种程度上为这片土地注入了新的文明，使她在语言、文化、法律、宗教等方面发生了巨大的变化，并为英国文学的兴起和发展提供了源泉。

### 1.1.2 主要文学特色

来自北欧的日耳曼部落带来了盎格鲁-撒克逊语，即古英语，同时还带来了一种恢弘而又哀婉的诗歌传统。盎格鲁-撒克逊时期的诗歌大体上分为两大类：其一是源于北欧的故事，称之为世俗诗歌；其二是有关基督教的故事，称之为宗教诗歌。宗教诗歌主要围绕圣经这一主题。世俗诗歌主要关注盎格鲁-撒克逊人在苦寒之地的生活；北海的恶劣气候对诗人的情绪和诗歌的语调影响巨大。

中世纪的英国文学涌现出了像杰弗利·乔叟这样杰出的作家。和古英语时期的文学相比，中世纪的英国文学描写的对象更加宽泛，风格、语调和体裁更加多样化。民间文学在这一阶段占有重要地位，虽然缺乏思想的原创性，但它对生活的描写不仅准确，而且丰富生动。骑士文学是这一时期较为流行的文学形式，它以叙事诗或散文的形式来歌颂骑士的冒险经历或其他英雄事迹。

### 1.1.3 主要作家与作品

《贝尔武夫》，一首典型的古英语诗歌，被认为是盎格鲁-撒克逊最伟大的民族史诗。

《高文爵士与绿衣骑士》，英国最好的骑士文学之一。

《罗宾汉民谣》，中世纪最重要的民谣之一。

《坎特伯雷故事集》，杰弗利·乔叟的代表作。

### 1.1.4 学习提示

针对本章的学习，学生应了解中古时期英国文学的特点，熟悉该时期重要作品的背景、故事结构和人物，如《贝尔武夫》、《坎特伯雷故事集》等。

### 1.1.5 考点综述

英国中古时期文学需要掌握的考点具体有：

《贝尔武夫》的故事结构和人物分析；

重要文学术语的识记,如史诗(epic)、民谣(ballad)、传奇文学(romance)等;

乔叟在英国文学史的地位和贡献以及《坎特伯雷故事集》的故事结构和意义,其中女修道院院长和巴斯妇是考核的重点。

## 1.2 杰弗利·乔叟

### 1.2.1 作者简介

乔叟,宫廷诗人,他一生接触广泛,从宫廷贵族到资产阶级、普通百姓都有深入了解。通过观察,乔叟创造出了富有个性色彩的各式各样的人物形象,开创了英国文学的写实主义传统。乔叟艺术风格的特点是幽默和讽刺。他的诗歌语言生动,既注重刻画人物的外貌特征,又不忘深刻、细腻地展示人物的内心世界。乔叟把东部的方言(伦敦方言)作为自己文学写作的语言,从而为现代英语的发展打下了基础。乔叟学习并吸收了法国和意大利诗歌的艺术风格,并借用它们来丰富和提高英国诗歌的艺术表现力。《坎特伯雷故事集》中的不少故事是用十音节“双韵体”写成的。这种诗歌形式逐步演化成了“英雄双韵体”,并为后来的英国诗人所广泛采用。乔叟也因此被誉为“英国诗歌之父”。乔叟的《坎特伯雷故事集》,无论在内容和技巧上都达到了他诗歌创作的顶峰。

### 1.2.2 主要作品简介

#### 1.2.2.1 《坎特伯雷故事集》

这是一部诗体故事集。乔叟原计划创作120个故事,但他只完成了24个故事。《坎特伯雷故事集》题材广泛,人物来自社会的各个阶层,展现了广阔的社会画面,其中以骑士、女修道院长、巴斯妇等人讲的故事最为有名。《故事集》深刻反映了资本主义萌芽时期的英国社会生活,揭露了教会的腐败和教士的伪善、贪婪,谴责了扼杀人性的禁欲主义,并肯定了世俗的爱情生活。因此,该作品的艺术成就很高,远远超过了同时代其他作品,是英国文学史上写实主义的第一部典范。作品将幽默和讽刺结合,喜剧色彩浓厚,对后来的英国文学产生了深远的影响。

### 1.2.3 选读作品赏析

#### 1.2.3.1 Excerpts from the General Prologue of *The Canterbury Tales*

In April, with the beginning of spring, people of varying social classes come from all over England to gather at the Tabard Inn, preparing for a pilgrimage to Canterbury to receive the blessings of St. Thomas à Becket, the English martyr. Chaucer is one of the pilgrims. That evening, the Host of the Tabard Inn suggests that each member of the group tell tales on the way to and from Canterbury in order to make the time pass more pleasantly. The person who tells the best story will be awarded an exquisite dinner at the end of the trip. The Host decides to accompany the party and appoints himself as the judge of the best tale.

*The Canterbury Tales* is more than just a collection of stories. It is a pageant of 14th century life. Every class variation is represented except the highest and the lowest. These people act their parts in a way that reveals their private lives and habits, their moods and dispositions, and their good and bad qualities. In the General Prologue,

Chaucer sets up the general structure of the tales and introduces each of the characters. The General Prologue in essence serves as a guide for the tales, giving some explanations for the motivation behind each of the tales. *The Canterbury Tales* begins with the imagery of spring and regeneration. Then Chaucer veers into some spiritual territory. In springtime these travelers make a religious pilgrimage to Canterbury. He gives relatively straightforward descriptions of the characters and has some inclination to show their best qualities. Each pilgrim is described as an exemplar and a number of these pilgrims are described as “perfect” in some way or another.

Subtle criticism and sly wit are also taken into consideration by Chaucer. The description of the Prioress is obviously flattering, yet it also sharply criticizes her foolish sentimentality and oppressive attention to manners. Although she strives to be polite and refined, she speaks French with the vulgar rural pronunciation compared to elite Parisian French. Furthermore, she weeps at the mere sight of a dead mouse. The Wife of Bath is among the travelers low on the social scale. Chaucer describes her as lewd and boisterous. Her clothing is ostentatious, meant to attract the attention from others. She is quite promiscuous — she has been married five times and has an undetermined number of lovers.

#### 1.2.4 思考题参考答案

Excerpts from the General Prologue of *The Canterbury Tales*

1. What is the “frame device” that Chaucer uses for his collection of stories?

The framework here refers to a narrative which was composed for the purpose of introducing and connecting a series of tales. In planning *The Canterbury Tales*, Chaucer might have got the idea of framing his stories from some previous literary sources, especially from Boccaccio. Chaucer's work consists of three parts: The General Prologue; 24 tales, two of which left unfinished; and separate prologues to each tale with links, comments, quarrels, etc. in between. Chaucer originally planned to have a group of 30 pilgrims with each to tell two stories on the way to Canterbury and another two on the way back. So the total stories of the collection would be 120, some 20 stories more than Boccaccio's. But Chaucer had actually completed only 22 stories, with two more existing in fragments.

2. Study lines 1-8 of the “General Prologue”. What seems to be the motives offered for the pilgrimage? In what ways are the season and the nature images important factors?

In these beginning lines, Chaucer sets the double motivations of the pilgrims in an ambiguous tone. In spring, the harmonious marriage between heaven and earth mellows vegetations, pricks fowls and stirs the heart of man with a renewing power of nature. The pilgrimage is treated as an event in the calendar of nature, an aspect of the general springtime surge of human energy, which wakens man's love of Venus (natural love). And spring is also the season of Easter and is allegorically regarded as the time of the redemption through the sacrifice of Jesus Christ with its connotations of religious rebirth

which wakens man's love of God (divine love). Therefore, the pilgrimage is also treated as an event in the calendar of divinity, an aspect of religious piety, which draws pilgrims to holy places. The structure of this opening passage can be regarded as one from the whole Western tradition of the celebration of spring to a local event of English society, from natural forces in their general operation to a specific Christian manifestation. The transition from nature to divinity is emphasized by contrast between the physical vitality which conditions the pilgrimage and the spiritual sickness which occasions the pilgrimage, as well as by parallelism between the renewal power of nature and the restorative power of super-nature (divinity).

3. Based on Prioress's portrait, can you give a possible reason why she is undertaking this pilgrimage?

Chaucer describes the Prioress as an example of the basic human paradox, which places what people are in opposition to what they think they are or pretend to be. By means of emphasis on all her natural aspects, the portrait of the Prioress does seem to be a courtly heroine of romance rather than a nun. The implications set up in the whole portrait seem to be tightly fastened in the final ornament and symbol — the golden brooch with the motto "Love conquers all" — which has gone into its own double pilgrimage to the shrine of Venus and that of Christ.

4. What details does the narrator use in describing the Prioress, and in what order?

In describing the Prioress, the narrator focuses on her appearance and the matters included are her blue eyes, red mouth, the shape of her nose, the width of her forehead, her ornaments and dress, her table manners, her particular brand of French, her pets and her tenderness about mice, her name Eglantine, (a sweet wild rose), her simple way of smiling and coy, etc. And the details are not in good order so as to show a casual way of observation, thus giving a more realistic impression to the reader.

5. Why does the Wife of Bath go on pilgrimage?

The Wife of Bath is a new social type, an exuberant example of the newly opulent, ostentatious cloth-making bourgeoisie. As a fully individual, she has rich human value. Her main profession is matrimony. Her particular art is related to this and she is an expert in "the old dance" of love. Parallel with her many amorous adventures are her far pilgrimages. Her motives of going on this pilgrimage are not pure and she is using pilgrimages as a cover for other activities.

6. How does Chaucer reveal his attitude toward the Wife of Bath?

Chaucer stresses her professional pre-eminence, her conduct in church, her clothes, her marital status, her travels, her riding outfit, and her sociability. Her costume is amusingly not quite the height of fashion. In spite of her loud dress and manner, she is realized as a humanly attractive as well as a dazzling figure, a gay, talkative, formidable, dominating person. She is first introduced as a wife; and matrimony is her main profession. With her "heels spurred sharply" and a hat that could double as a shield, she

is clearly prepared for the battle. Although Chaucer's tone is somewhat satirical, it does not mean that Chaucer is entirely taking a negative attitude towards the Wife of Bath.

### 1.3 民间歌谣

#### 1.3.1 选读作品赏析

##### 1.3.1.1 "The Three Ravens"

Three ravens discuss a slain knight as the main course of their breakfast. But the knight is guarded by his hawks and hounds and they cannot get close to him. Later on his mistress finds his body and helps to clean his wounds. Then she carries the dead knight to an earthen cave and buries him there in the early morning. After that she lies down beside him and dies in her grief. Moved by the scene, the ravens, as bystanders, forget about their food and pray to God.

This ballad concentrates on the most dramatic part of the tale. The images are simple and direct. All background detail is cast aside in favor of the actions of the knight's hawks, hounds, and mistress. There are elements of love, loyalty, supernatural and eternity. It is one of the most beautiful of the old chivalric ballads.

##### 1.3.1.2 "Get Up and Bar the Door"

The wife wants her husband to bar the door because the wind blows in and disturbs her cooking. The husband doesn't want to do it. Then they agree after an argument that the first person who speaks will have to bar the door. If neither speaks, neither will go and bar the door. At night, two strangers enter through the open door and eat the food the wife has prepared. Neither husband nor wife says anything. However, when the strangers propose to cut off the husband's beard and kiss the wife, the husband rises up in a rage and shouts at the thieves, at which the wife rejoices. She then asks her husband to get up and bar the door.

The basic conflict in this ballad is one that is easily recognized: man vs. woman, or more specifically, husband vs. wife, a battle of the wills. The setting of this story is mid-November, in the home of a couple. The most direct lesson from the ballad is that not barring the door has led them to trouble. Several literary techniques help to heighten the drama in this ballad. "Get Up and Bar the Door" follows the traditional four-line stanza and *abcb* rhyme scheme found in ballads. It also makes use of repetition of variations of the phrase "Get Up and Bar the Door". This seems to suggest the urgency of shutting the door and the danger the inhabitants of the house confront by letting the darkness of the night into their house. If any adjectives describe the man and wife, it is "stubborn". Though humorous, the ballad has a serious theme: One's stubbornness can inadvertently cause harm to himself or others.

#### 1.3.2 思考题参考答案

##### "The Three Ravens"

1. What happens in this ballad?



While three ravens are discussing about getting the dead body of a knight for their breakfast, the dead knight's hawks and hounds take a good guard of their dead master. Later on his lover finds his body and cleans his wounds. She then carries his body to an earthen cave and buries him there at dawn. After that she lies down beside him and dies in her grief.

2. What is the mood of this ballad?

The mood of this ballad is sad, solemn and awe.

3. What is its theme?

This ballad is to praise the love and loyalty of the knight's hawks, hounds and mistress.

“Get Up and Bar the Door”

1. What is the mood of this ballad?

It is humorous and comic with a touch of seriousness in thought.

2. What can you learn from the ballad?

One's stubbornness can inadvertently cause harm to himself or others.

3. How is the story told?

The story is presented in dialogue, focusing on a single domestic scene; get up and bar the door. The implied thoughts are conveyed and emphasized by using a variety of literary techniques such as symbolism, hyperbole, repetition, and rhyme.

## 1.4 补充练习

### A. Define the following literary terms.

1. Romance 2. Ballad 3. Legend 4. Epic (中南财经政法大学2010年考研题)

### B. Multiple Choice Questions.

1. *The Canterbury Tales* is a collection of \_\_\_\_\_ strung together according to a simple plan. (武汉理工大学2007年考研题)

A. myths                      B. allusions                      C. stories                      D. poems

2. *The Canterbury Tales* is \_\_\_\_\_ masterpiece and one of the monumental works in English literature. (武汉理工大学2008年考研题)

A. Fielding's                      B. Lawrence's                      C. Fowles's                      D. Chaucer's

3. The prevailing form of Medieval English literature is \_\_\_\_\_.

A. novel                      B. drama                      C. romance                      D. essay

4. The story of \_\_\_\_\_ is the culmination of the Arthurian romances.

A. *Sir Gawain and the Green Knight*                      B. *Beowulf*  
C. *Piers the plowman*                      D. *The Canterbury Tales*

5. Geoffrey Chaucer, “the father of English poetry”, is one of the greatest \_\_\_\_\_ poets of England. (北京第二外国语学院2006年考研题)

A. lyrical                      B. narrative                      C. sonnet                      D. dramatic