

华东交通大学教材建设基金资助项目

# 英美文学 欣赏

Appreciation of British and  
American Literature



主编 丁礼明 纪蓉琴



江西高校出版社

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Appreciation of British and American Literature

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## Preface

近二十年来,我国的大学英语教学取得了举世瞩目的成就,与之密切相关的大学英语四、六级考试也产生了巨大的社会效应,并得到了国际语言学界的广泛认同。然而,随着我国对外开放力度的不断加大和我国成功地加入世贸组织,我国的经济建设需要越来越多既懂专业又能熟练掌握外语的优秀人才。与此同时,社会各界对大学生的外语水平尤其是他们的外语应用能力提出了更高的要求,越来越多的大学生也希望在步入社会之前把外语学得更好,以便日后能胜任自己将要担任的工作。所有这一切都使我国的大学英语教学面临新的挑战。正是在这种催人奋进的新形势下,我校的大学英语教学开始了新一轮的改革。2007年起本人获准立项华东交通大学校级课题,并依此启动了“英美文学课程的教学模式研究与实践”这一教改项目,其核心内容是编写和开设一门大学英语A级班的后续高级选修课。所以这套教材的编写是整个教改项目中的重要内容。而奉献在大学生读者面前的这套《英美文学欣赏》教材正是这一教改立项的成果的具体体现。

编写《英美文学欣赏》的初衷是为了保证大学英语教学的延续性和英语学习的质量。具体来

说,开设本教程有三个目的:一是为了直接提高大学生的英语语言水平,二是普及必要的英语文学知识,三是培养学生的人文素养。首先,文学是语言的精髓,文学欣赏会直接有助于英语水平的提高。在经过基础的语言教学之后,文学作品的阅读和欣赏无疑是一个系统有效地学习英语的途径和必要的阶段。同时,借助文学阅读能使语言学习有质的飞跃。无论中文学习还是英语学习,无一例外都会在高年级开设文学课,正是这个道理。其次,必要的文学知识应该成为大学生的基本常识。随着对外开放中国对外的国际交流活动日益增多,大学生非常有必要去了解英语国家的相关文化背景知识和英语语言的内涵,而不同时期的文学作品无疑是了解英美社会发展背景和西方社会优秀人文精神的最佳途径。第三,文学是人类情感的相传。在欣赏英美文学作品的同时,大学生们不仅可以从文学文本中直接领略英语文学的魅力,拓展视野,丰富想象,体悟人性,品味人生,还可以把握文化的精髓和人文精神的脉动。总之,文学是一面明镜,它给你学习和生活提供借鉴;文学是一点烛光,它照亮你前进的路并给予你智慧的光芒;同时,文学又是一个世界,它会让你魂牵梦萦;文学还是一扇窗,它可以让你欣赏到外面精彩世界。

本教材选遗的内容大多是大学生比较熟悉的英美文学作品。在选择标准上,首先看重作品的经典性,同时注重作品语言的规范化和时代感;在题材上,尤其注重挑选优秀的诗歌、散文、小说和部分戏剧作品;在时间上,所选作品跨度从16世纪到20世纪,以近现代作品为主,贴近日常标准英语;在内容上,以切近年轻人关注的爱情、友情等话题为主。整个教材力求做到所选材料语言精美,内容引人入胜。结构上,《英美文学欣赏》共由四大部分组成:诗歌部分、散文部分、小说部分和戏剧部分。另外,

本教材的特点有以下几个方面:

1. 教材编写过程中紧紧把握《大学英语教学大纲》提高阶段的教学要求,从选材上尽量保证文理科的通用性。

2. 本教材根据自己的课型自成体系,又与其他课程相互配合,形成一个整体。学生在学习该教材时,会对学习英语产生更加浓厚的兴趣。

3. 按照大学英语教学大纲的要求,本教材努力为课堂教学提供最佳的语言样本及有系统性和针对性的语言实践活动。

4. 本教材注重处理好所选内容的知识性与可思性以及系统性与灵活性的关系。

5. 为了方便学生课程后查阅相关资料,本教材还在每个选读作品之后提供作家的相关网络地址。

当然,一个好教材是需要经得起时间的考验和经过教学实践的检验的。我们诚恳地希望读者给予宝贵的建议和意见,以便使该教材更加完善。

在具体操作过程中,华东交通大学外语学院的王敏和刘星两位老师参与了编写诗歌和小说等部分内容。此外,该教材的编写还得到华东交通大学外语学院王雅丽院长的关心和指导,以及纪蓉琴副院长所给予的技术指导和重要建议。特此一并表示感谢。

最后,由于本人能力有限,如在该教材中发现不当之处,恳请指正。

丁礼明

2008年3月于华东交通大学

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# Part One :

# Poetry Appreciation

## Chapter One :

## Poetry of British Literature

### 1.1 Sonnet 18

#### Introduction of the author

Shakespeare, William (1564 – 1616), “the Bard of Avon”, was an English poet and playwright who wrote the famous 154 Sonnets and 38 plays, which include comedy, tragedy and historical plays.

His greatest tragedy refers to *Hamlet* (1601), *Othello* (1604), *Macbeth* (1606) and *King Lear* (1605). The greatest comedy include *The Merchant of Venice* (1596), *Twelfth Night* (1600) and *As You Like It* (1599) etc. His well-known historical plays are: *Henry IV* (1590 – 1591) and *Richard III* (1593) etc. Taken individually, sever-

al of them are among the world's finest written works; taken collectively, they establish Shakespeare as the foremost literary talent of his own Elizabethan Age, and even more impressively, as a genius whose creative achievement has never been surpassed in any age.

### Sonnet 18

Shall I compare thee to a summer's day?  
Thou art more lovely and more temperate:  
Rough winds do shake<sup>1</sup> the darling buds of May,  
And summer's lease<sup>2</sup> hath all too short a date;  
Sometime too hot the eye<sup>3</sup> of heaven shines,  
And often is his gold complexion dimm'd;  
And every fair from fair sometime declines,  
By chance or nature's changing course untrimm'd;  
But thy eternal summer shall not fade  
Nor lose possession of that fair thou owest;  
Nor shall Death brag thou wander'st in his shade,  
When in eternal lines to time thou growest:  
So long as men can breathe or eyes can see,  
So long lives this and this gives life to thee.

#### Notes:

1. shake: 摇落 (to shake leaves from a tree: 把树叶从树上摇落)
2. lease: 延续的一段时间 (a lease of life: 寿命), 文中指夏天延续的时间



3. the eye of heaven: 太阳

### Questions for Study

1. What makes the poet think that “thou” can be more beautiful than summer and immortal?

2. How does the speaker use natural imagery to create a picture of the young man’s beauty?

3. In the sonnet there is some old English. Can you find them out and change them into modern English?

Website: <http://www.willshakespeare.com>



**William Shakespeare**

## 1.2 Holy Sonnet 10

### Introduction of the poet

Donne, John (1572 – 1631) is the leading figure of the 17th. century “metaphysical school”. He was born in Roman Catholic family. He studied theology, medicine, law and classic literature in Oxford and Cambridge University. In 1598 he was appointed as the personal secretary by Sir Eagleton. In 1601 he got married to the niece of Mrs. Eagleton secretly, and because of this he was put into prison and lost his job.

His poems focus on love and religion. The language in his poems is colloquial and there is conceit which is called distinctive metaphor. And his poems also give a more inherently theatrical impression by exhibiting a seemingly unfocused diversity of experiences and attitudes, a free range of feelings and moods. The mode is dynamic rather than static, with ingenuity of speech, vividness of imagery and vitality of rhythms, which show a notable contrast to the other Elizabethan lyric poems, which are pure, serene, tuneful and smooth running. The most striking feature of Donne’s poetry is precisely its tang (sharp taste) of reality, in the sense that it seems to reflect life in a real rather than a poetical world. His famous collection of poems is *Holy Sonnets* and *Songs and Sonnets*. *Holy Sonnet* 10 is included in *Holy Sonnets*.



## Holy Sonnet 10

Death, be not proud, though some have called thee  
 Mighty and dreadful, for thou art not so;  
 For those whom thou think' st thou dost overthrow  
 Die not, poor death, nor yet canst thou kill me.  
 From rest and sleep, which yet thy pictures be,  
 Much pleasure, then from thee much more must flow  
 And soonest our best men with thee do go,  
 Rest of their bones and soul's delivery<sup>1</sup>.  
 Thou art slave to ~~thy~~ chance, kings and desperate men  
 And dost with poison, war and sickness dwell<sup>2</sup>,  
 And poppy<sup>3</sup> or charms can make us sleep as well  
 And better than thy stroke; why swell' st thou then?  
 One short sleep past, we wake eternally,  
 And death shall be no more; death, thou shalt<sup>4</sup> die.

### Notes:

1. delivery: 原为传递, 本文是解脱
2. dwell: 住, 存在
3. poppy: 鸦片
4. shalt: shall

### Questions for Study

1. To whom is the narrator speaking in this poem?

2. What is the main point Donne is trying to express about how he feels about death?

3. What attitude can we form by learning from it ?

Website: <http://www.cnpoet.com>



**John Donne**



## 1.3 The Tyger

### Introduction of the poet

Blake, William (1757 – 1827) was an English artist, mystic and poet who wrote *Songs of Innocence* (1789). It is a poetry collection written from the child's point of view and it's full of innocent wonderment and spontaneity in natural settings. It includes *Little Boy Lost*, *Little Boy Found* and *The Lamb*. Another collection of poems is *Songs of Experience* (1794).

### The Tyger

Tyger! Tyger! burning bright  
In the forests of the night  
What immortal<sup>1</sup> hand or eye  
Could frame thy fearful symmetry<sup>2</sup>?

In what distant deeps or skies  
Burnt the fire of thine eyes?  
On what wings<sup>2</sup> dare he aspire<sup>3</sup>?  
What the hand dare seize the fire?

And what shoulder, and what art,  
Could twist the sinews<sup>4</sup> of thy heart?



And when thy heart began to beat,  
What dread hand? and what dread feet?

What the hammer? what the chain?  
In what furnace was thy brain?  
What the anvil<sup>5</sup>? what dread grasp  
Dare its deadly terrors clasp<sup>6</sup>?

When the stars threw down their spears,  
And watered heaven with their tears,  
Did he smile his work to see?  
Did he who made the lamb make thee?

Tyger! Tyger! burning bright  
In the forests of the night,  
What immortal hand or eye  
Dare frame thy fearful symmetry?

### Notes:

1. immortal: 不朽的    2. symmetry: 匀称    3. aspire: 追求  
4. sinews: 筋腱        5. anvil: 铁砧        6. clasp: 握紧

### Questions for Study

1. What do the language and rhythm of the poem suggest about the significance of the tiger and the nature of its creator?
2. What does the tiger symbolize in the poem?