



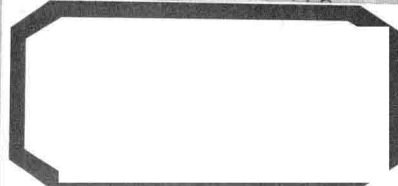
英国文学经典选读

Selected Classical Readings of British Literature

主 编 蒙雪梅 张 扬
主 审 张 谨 王 洋



哈爾濱工業大學出版社
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内容简介

《英国文学经典选读》是“史”“选”结合的教材,各个部分按照英国文学史的时间顺序划时期,简明介绍了英国文学从古代到 20 世纪的历史文化背景、文学史特点,选择代表作家和经典作品。每章包括作家生平简介、作品介绍、注释、名词解释、思考题等。本书线索清晰,旨在为学生搭建英国文学框架,引导学生阅读经典原著,感受英国文学的人文精神和丰富的思想内涵,帮助学生开阔视野、丰富想象、体悟人性、品味人生。

本书适合我国高等院校学生作为通识课程教材。

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前 言

进入 21 世纪以来,我国高校大学英语改革迅速,而大学英语教材建设工作相对滞后,教学内容单一,不能满足学生对高质量英语教育的需求。教育部颁布的《大学英语课程教学要求》(2007)指出:大学英语课程不仅是一门语言基础知识课程,也是拓宽知识、了解世界文化的素质教育课程。不断深入的大学英语改革越加注重培养学生的实际应用能力和综合文化素养。一些有创造性的教材及课程也随之应运而生,“博雅”理念根植于古希腊的 Liberal education,以期实现培广博之才,育雅正之人的目的。因此,设计大学英语课程时也应充分考虑对学生文化素质的培养和国际文化知识的传授,以适应我国社会新世纪发展和国际交流的需要。

近年来,我国对英美文学的介绍和研究日益重视,为适应新世纪人才培养需要,哈工大在 2012 年开设了大学英语教改拓展课程“英美文学史与选读”。我国很多优秀的英美文学类教材的使用对象是英语专业学生,但不适合大学英语教改通识课程使用,我们自编了教材,这门课程和教材得到理工科大学生的肯定和欢迎。为优化课程体系我们更新教学内容,今年再次修订本套教材,本书为《英国文学经典选读》,这是一套适合我国高等院校大学非英语专业使用的通识课程教材。

《英国文学经典选读》内容包括英国文学七章,各章按照文学史的时间顺序划分时期,简明介绍各时期历史背景和文学史特点,精选了每个时期主要的作家及代表作品,突出人文教育的特点,传承西方社会正统主流文化。本书主要介绍作家在文学史上的地位、人生经历、创作经历、代表作品。在博雅教育理念下,我们着重选择经典作品,根据理工科学生的学科特点和复合型人才培养的特点,加入注释、思考题等,力求深入浅出,通俗易懂。

本拓展课程教材是一本集历史、文化、文本于一体的文学选读教材,引领大学英语教改方向,首次打破了长期以来只有精读与听力单一的传统大学英语教

学模式,是大学英语教学有益的、必要的补充。我们希望在培养学生欣赏英美文学的同时,让他们领略英美文学的魅力,把握文化的精髓和人文精神的脉动,提高学生的英语认知水平和人文素养。

《英国文学经典选读》不仅仅是一本教材,而是结合了多种形式的独特授课方式的一个蓝本。

第一:《英国文学经典选读》是原哈工大大学英语教改新课型中自编教材,是针对非英语专业学生量身制作的第一本语言文学类教材,适合复合型人才培养方案。

第二:《英国文学经典选读》首次结合了独特的翻转课堂授课方式,如针对早期英国文学精品所选的《贝奥武夫》等作品,课前布置和组织学生观看根据同名小说改编的电影,然后展开相关的课堂讨论。

第三:《英国文学经典选读》首次针对诗歌选读部分采用录制视频的作业方式,课堂报告,学生展示自己创作和制作的诗歌视频作品。有配乐,有画面,有学生自己声情并茂的朗读,有学生的专业评论。

第四:《英国文学经典选读》针对文艺复兴时期的莎士比亚戏剧作品选读部分,策划推出了“哈工大首届莎士比亚戏剧表演大赛”。学生分组选剧本片段,背台词,借服装,准备道具,利用教室布置舞台,多媒体屏幕做舞台布景,配乐和英文字幕,表演十分精彩震撼。傍晚的校园里,正值丁香花盛开,暮色里花香袭人,教室里时光穿越,莎士比亚的世界海市蜃楼般地出现在眼前,流利的英语和投入的表演使《奥赛罗》组获一等奖,《哈姆雷特》获二等奖,《仲夏夜之梦》获三等奖。这是理工科学生奉献给哈工大的一次充满人文情怀的盛宴。

《英国文学经典选读》教材与教学设计是不可分割的一个完美的整体。它从酝酿到诞生凝聚了文学组教师们的心血和对学生无比赤诚的热爱,以及对教育事业的热情,像山谷里的野百合,在全国大学英语教改的春风里,轻柔地、静静地绽放,也有自己独特的春天。

特别感谢朱勤一老师给我们提供的大力帮助。

本书适合大学英语通识课程使用,书中不足之处恳请读者批评与指正,以便进一步修订与完善。

蒙雪梅 王化玲

2016年8月

Contents

Chapter 1	Early and Medieval English Literature	1
Unit	Geoffrey Chaucer	5
	The Canterbury Tales	7
Chapter 2	English Literature in the Renaissance	12
Unit 1	Edmund Spenser	16
	The Faerie Queene	18
Unit 2	William Shakespeare	21
	Hamlet	22
	Sonnet 18	25
Chapter 3	Literature of the English Revolution and Restoration	27
Unit 1	John Milton	30
	Paradise Lost	32
Unit 2	John Bunyan	37
	The Pilgrim's Progress	39
Unit 3	John Donne	43
	A Valediction: Forbidding Mourning	44
Chapter 4	18th-Century English Literature	48
Unit 1	Daniel Defoe	52
	Robinson Crusoe	54
Unit 2	Jonathan Swift	63
	Gulliver's Travels	64
Unit 3	William Blake	72
	London	73
Unit 4	Robert Burns	75
	A Red, Red Rose	76
Chapter 5	Romanticism in English Literature	78
Unit 1	William Wordsworth	80

	I Wandered Lonely as a Cloud	81
Unit 2	Samuel Taylor Coleridge	83
	The Rime of the Ancient Mariner	84
Unit 3	George Gordon Byron	89
	The Isles of Greece	91
Unit 4	John Keats	98
	Ode to a Nightingale	100
Unit 5	Percy Bysshe Shelley	105
	Ode to the West Wind	106
Unit 6	Jane Austen	110
	Pride and Prejudice	112
Chapter 6	19th-Century English Literature	117
Unit 1	Charles Dickens	119
	Great Expectations	120
Unit 2	The Brontë Sisters	126
	Jane Eyre	128
Unit 3	Thomas Hardy	142
	Tess of the D'Urbervilles	144
Chapter 7	20th-Century English Literature	154
Unit 1	Joseph Conrad	157
	Heart of Darkness	158
Unit 2	William Butler Yeats	161
	When You Are Old	162
	The Second Coming	163
Unit 3	James Joyce	165
	Ulysses	167
Unit 4	Virginia Woolf	175
	Mrs. Dalloway	176
Unit 5	David Herbert Lawrence	178
	Sons and Lovers	180
Unit 6	Doris May Lessing	185
	A Woman on a Roof	187
参考文献		200

Chapter 1

Early and Medieval English Literature

I. Historical Background

1. The Making of England

More than 7, 000 years ago, when the Ice Age ended, melting ice flooded low-lying lands in continental Europe, creating the English Channel and the North Sea and turning Britain into an island. Around 3000BC, the first known settlers of Britain were the Iberians. More dramatic monuments were the henges, the most important of which was Stonehenge in Wiltshire.

1.1 The Native Celts 凯尔特人

The Celts may originally have come from eastern and central Europe (now called France, Belgium and southern Germany); they came to Britain in three main waves: Gaels, Britons and the Belgae. Celts, also called the Britons, are regarded as the natives of Great Britain. Celts began to move into Great Britain in about 700BC, and they are believed to be ancestors of the Highland Scots, the Irish and the Welsh people. Some of the Celtic words or sounds were later assimilated into the English language. Their languages, the Celtic languages, are the basis of Gaelic, Irish and Welsh.

1.2 Roman Britain

In 55BC, Julius Caesar sailed across the English Channel after he had conquered Gaul. In 43AD, the Romans occupied England by driving the native Celts into mountainous Scotland and Wales, and completely conquered the southern part of the island of Great Britain, including England and Wales. But they were never able to

completely defeat or control what is now Scotland. For nearly 400 years, Britain was under Roman occupation. The Romans built many towns, roads, baths, temples and buildings. They made good use of Britain's natural resources. They also brought the new religion, Christianity, to Britain.

2. The Anglo-Saxon Period

In the mid-5th century, Jutes, Saxons, and Angles came to Britain. A Jutish chief became the King of Kent in 449. Then the Saxons established their kingdom in Essex, Sussex and Wessex from the end of the 5th century to the beginning of the 6th century. In the second half of the 6th century, the Angles, who also came from northern Germany and were to give their name to the English people, settled in East Anglia, Mercia and Northumbria. These seven principal kingdoms of Kent, Essex, Sussex, Wessex, East Anglia, Mercia and Northumbria have been given the name of Heptarchy. The early Anglo-Saxons converted to Christianity.

Viking and Danish Invasions

The Norwegians and the Danes, the invaders, attacked various parts of England from the end of the 8th century. They even managed to capture York, an important center of Christianity in 867. By the middle of the 9th century, the Vikings and the Danes were posing a threat to the Saxon kingdom of Wessex.

Alfred (849 – 899), a king of Wessex, defeated the Danes and reached a friendly agreement with them in 879. He founded a strong fleet and is known as “the father of the British navy”. All this earns him the title “Alfred the Great”.

3. The Anglo-Norman Period

3.1 The Norman Conquest

It was said that King Edward had promised the English throne to William, the Duke of Normandy but the Witan chose Harold. In 1066, William defeated Harold and killed him during the important battle of Hastings. William was crowned king of England, thus beginning the Norman Conquest of England. The Norman Conquest is perhaps the best-known event in English history. The feudal system was completely established in England. Norman-French culture, language, manners and architecture were introduced. The Church was brought into closer connection with Rome. The English is a mixture of nationalities of different origins. The ancestors of many English people were the ancient

Angles and Saxons. Some English people are of the Norman-French origin.

3.2 The Hundred Years' War

The Hundred Years' War was a series of conflicts from 1337 to 1453 between the Kingdom of England and the Kingdom of France.

It was due to a dynastic disagreement to William the Conqueror, while remaining Duke of Normandy. As dukes of Normandy and other lands on the continent, the English kings owed homage to the King of France. The question of legal succession to the French crown was central to the war. Although primarily a dynastic conflict, the war gave impetus to ideas of French and English nationalism.

During the Hundred Years' War, Joan of Arc believed she could rescue the French people. She rallied the demoralized French troops, leading them in battle. Ultimately captured and imprisoned by the English, Joan was condemned as a heretic and a witch and stood trial before the Inquisition in 1431. She eventually became a martyr and was then burnt at the stake and became a national hero.

3.3 Wars of Roses

The Wars of the Roses in the 15th century were fought by the noble families of York and Lancaster between 1455 and 1485. They are called the Wars of the Roses because each family used a rose as its symbol—a red rose for York and a white rose for Lancaster. These wars were very bloody, full of battles, betrayals and murders. Finally the last Yorkist king, Richard III, was beaten by a Welsh noble, Henry Tudor in England who became King Henry VII, the first Tudor monarch. He made a Tudor rose—a red rose with a white rose in the middle. This came to symbolize the peace that had come after all the fighting. The House of Tudor subsequently ruled England and Wales for 117 years.

II. Literature Background

1. Anglo-Saxon Literature

Anglo-Saxon literature, that is, the Old English literature is almost exclusively a verse literature in oral form. It could be passed down by word of mouth from generation to generation. Its creators for the most part are unknown. It was only given a written form long after its composition.

Beowulf is the oldest poem in the English language, commonly cited as one of the most important works of Anglo-Saxon literature; and also the surviving heroic epic poem consisting of 3182 alliterative long lines. Alliteration is used for poetic effect, a repetition of the initial sounds of several words in a group. e. g. a. To his kin the kindest, keenest for praise; b. Sing a song of southern singer.

Beowulf, king of the Geats who live in Juteland, Denmark, comes to the help of Hrothgar, the king of the Danes, whose mead hall (Heorot) has been under attack by a monster known as Grendel. After Beowulf slays him, Grendel's mother attacks the hall and is also defeated. Beowulf goes home to Geatland in Sweden and later becomes king of the Geats. After a period of fifty years, Beowulf defeats a fire-spewing dragon, but Beowulf is severely wounded during the fight. He dies a heroic death. The poem ends with the funeral of the hero.

A lot of metaphors and understatements are used in the poem. For example, the sea is called "the whale-road" or "the swan road"; the soldiers are called "shield-men"; human-body is referred to as "the bone-house"; God is called "wonder-wielder"; monster is referred to as "soul-destroyer".

2. Medieval English Literature

Medieval literature covers about four century, which encompasses essentially all written works available in Europe and beyond during the Middle Ages. In the early part of the period (1066 up to the mid-14th century), there was not much about literature in English. The works of this time were composed of religious writings. In the second half (the 14th century), English literature started to flourish. Middle English literature deals with wider subjects and various styles, tones and genres.

2.1 The Romance

The most prevailing kind of literature in feudal England was the romance, which was a long composition, sometimes in verse, sometimes in prose, describing the life and adventures of a noble hero, often in the form of allegory. The knight was the central character of romances.

The romance of King Arthur (adventures of King Arthur and his Knights of the Round Table) is comparatively the most important for the history of English literature.

King Arthur is a legendary British leader of the late 5th and early 6th centuries,

who led the defense of Britain against Saxon invaders in the early 6th century. Some Welsh and Briton tales and poems relating the story of Arthur date from earlier than this work. In these works, Arthur appears either as a great warrior defending Britain from human and supernatural enemies or as a magical figure of folklore, sometimes associated with the Welsh Otherworld, Annwn.

2.2 English Ballads

The most important department of English folk literature is the ballad. A ballad is a story told in song, usually in 4-line stanzas, with the second and fourth lines rhymed.

Popular folk literature occupies an important place in this period. The Middle English literature strongly reflects the principles of the medieval Christian doctrine, which are primarily concerned with the issue of personal salvation. An emphasis has also been placed on the humanity of Christ and the imagery of human passion. Love has largely superseded fear; and explorations into undiscovered regions of the heart offer fresh possibilities for introspection.

The most famous cycle of English ballads centers on the stories about a legendary outlaw called Robin Hood. In English history, Robin Hood is partly a real and partly a legendary figure. The ballads tell us that he lived during the reign of Richard I. The dominant key in his character is his hatred for the cruel oppressors and his love for the poor and downtrodden. He was the leader of a band of outlaws, and they lived in the deep forest. They often attacked the rich, waged war against the bishops and archbishops, and helped the poor people. Therefore, Robin Hood and his followers were constantly hunted by the sheriffs.

Unit Geoffrey Chaucer (1340? – 1400)

Appreciation

When in April the sweet showers fall 春雨给大地带来了喜悦,

And pierce the drought of March to the root, and all 送走了土壤干裂的三月,

The veins are bathed in liquor of such power 沐浴着草木的丝丝经络,

As brings about the engendering of the flower 顿时百花盛开, 生机勃勃。

Geoffrey Chaucer is widely considered the greatest English poet of the medieval Ages. Chaucer rose in royal employment and became a knight of the shire for Kent. As a member of the king's household, Chaucer was sent on diplomatic errands throughout Europe. From all these activities, he gained the knowledge of society that made it possible to write *The Canterbury Tales*.

Although he wrote many works, which include *The Book of the Duchess*, *The House of Fame*, *The Legend of Good Women* and *Troilus and Criseyde*, and he is best remembered for his immortal *The Canterbury Tales*. Chaucer died in October 1400 and he was the first poet to have been buried in Poets' Corner of Westminster Abbey.

Chaucer is the first to use the rhymed couplet of iambic pentameter, which is to be called the heroic couplet. Iambic pentameter is the basic rhythmical pattern in English verse, with five feet in a line, usually an unaccented syllable followed by an accented syllable. Thus, he lays the foundation of the English tonic-syllabic verse.

He uses London dialect in his writings and he contributes to making it the foundation for modern English speech. Though drawing influence from French, Italian and Latin models, he is the first great poet who wrote in the English language. His production of so much excellent poetry was an important factor in establishing English as the literary language of the country. The spoken English of the time consisted of several dialects, and Chaucer did much in making the dialect of London the standard for the modern English speech. Chaucer is considered the source of the English vernacular tradition and "the father of modern English literature".

Brief Introduction

The Canterbury Tales is a collection of stories written in Middle English by Geoffrey Chaucer between 1387 and 1400. It is composed of humorous, bawdy, and poignant stories told by a group of fictional pilgrims, who travel together on a journey from Southwark to the shrine of Saint Thomas Becket at Canterbury Cathedral. They come from all layers of society, and tell stories to each other to kill time while travelling to Canterbury. Many of the stories seem to fit their individual characters and social standing; the innkeeper shares the name of a contemporary keeper of an inn in Southwark, and real-life identities for the Wife of Bath, the Merchant, the Man of Law

and the Student have been suggested.

Incomplete as they are, these tales cover practically all the major types of medieval literature; courtly romance, folk tale, beast fable, story of travel and adventure, saint's life, allegorical tale, sermon, alchemical account, and others. Taking the stand of the rising bourgeoisie, Chaucer affirms men and women's right to pursue their happiness on earth and opposes the dogma of asceticism preached by the church. As a forerunner of humanism, he praises man's energy, intellect, quick wit and love of life. His tales expose and satirize the evils of the time. *The Canterbury Tales* is considered to be among the masterpieces of literature.

The Prologue provides a framework for the tales. It contains a group of vivid sketches of typical medieval figures. It supplies a miniature of the English society of Chaucer's time. Looking at his word-pictures, we know at once how people lived in that era. That is why Chaucer has been called "the founder of English realism".

Selected Reading

The Canterbury Tales

The Prologue^①

When in April the sweet showers fall
And pierce the drought of March to the root^②, and all
The veins are bathed in liquor of such power^③
As brings about the engendering of the flower^④,
When also Zephyrus^⑤ with his sweet breath

①prologue: 序言

②pierce ... to the root: The gentle spring rain penetrates the very roots of the plants

③bathed in liquor of such power: liquor, 甘霖。The water of the spring rain moistening every rib of the leaves and endowing the plants with its power

④As brings about the engendering of the flower: engendering, 生长;发芽。With the power of the water, flowers begin to blossom

⑤Zephyrus: the west wind, 西风 (在英国, 春天里西风从大西洋上吹来, 是温暖和煦的。)

Exhales^① an air in every grove and heath^②
Upon the tender shoots^③, and the young sun^④
His half-course in the sign of the Ram has run,
And the small fowl^⑤ are making melody
That sleep away the night with open eye
(So nature pricks them and their heart engages^⑥)
Then people long to go on pilgrimages
And palmers^⑦ long to seek the stranger strands^⑧
Of far-off saints, hallowed^⑨ in sundry^⑩ lands,
And specially, from every shire's end^⑪
Of England, down to Canterbury^⑫ they wend^⑬
To seek the holy blissful martyr^⑭, quick
To give his help to them when they were sick,
It happened in that season that one day
In Southwark^⑮, at The Tabard, as I lay
Ready to go on pilgrimages and start

①exhale: 呼出;吐出

②grove and heath: 树林和荒地

③shoots: 新芽

④the young sun/ His half-course in the sign of the Ram has run: Ram, 白羊宫, 古代用于解释天体运行的黄道带十二宫中的一个。太阳经过白羊宫时正是春天, 所以称太阳为 the young sun

⑤fowl: [复数]鸟

⑥So nature ... engages: So nature stimulates them and attracts their hearts

⑦palmers: 朝圣者;香客

⑧the strange strands: 异乡的海岸

⑨hallowed: 被奉为神圣的

⑩sundry: 各种各样的

⑪from every shire's end: from the farthest limit of every county

⑫Canterbury: 坎特伯雷。a town southeast of London, in the county of Kent

⑬wend: 行;走

⑭the holy blissful martyr: martyr, 殉道者, 指坎特伯雷大主教 St. Thomas Becket, 他死后被葬于坎特伯雷

⑮Southwark: 当时伦敦的一个郊区

For Canterbury, most devout at heart,
 At night there came into that hostelry^①
 Some nine and twenty in a company
 Of sundry folk happening then to fall
 In fellowship, and they were pilgrims all
 That towards Canterbury meant to ride,
 The rooms and stables of the inn were wide;
 They made us easy; all was of the best,
 And, briefly, when the sun had gone to rest,
 I'd spoken to them all upon the trip
 And was soon one with them in fellowship,
 Pledged^② to rise early and to take the way
 To Canterbury, as you heard me say.
 But none the less, while I have time and space,
 Before my story takes a further pace,
 It seems a reasonable thing to say
 What their condition was, the full array
 Of each of them, as it appeared to me,
 According to profession and degree^③,
 And what apparel^④ they were riding in;
 And at a Knight I therefore will begin.

①hostelry: inn, 旅店;客栈。这里指 Tabard

②pledged: 发誓

③degree: 社会地位

④apparel: 服饰

Questions for Discussion

1. What is the importance of “The General Prologue” in *The Canterbury Tales*?
2. What are Chaucer’s contributions to English literature and the English language?
3. Give a brief analysis of the quotation.

*When in April the sweet showers fall
And pierce the drought of March to the root, and all
The veins are bathed in liquor of such power
As brings about the engendering of the flower,
When also Zephyrus with his sweet breath
Exhales an air in every grove and heath
Upon the tender shoots, and the young sun
His half-course in the sign of the Ram has run,
And the small fowl are making melody
That sleep away the night with open eye
(So nature pricks them and their heart engages)
Then people long to go on pilgrimages
And palmers long to seek the stranger strands
Of far-off saints, hallowed in sundry lands,
And specially, from every shire’s end
Of England, down to Canterbury they wend
To seek the holy blissful martyr, quick
To give his help to them when they were sick.*