

THE NORTON ANTHOLOGY OF ENGLISH LITERATURE
Fifth Edition The Major Authors



# The Norton Anthology of English Literature

# FIFTH EDITION THE MAJOR AUTHORS

M. H. Abrams, General Editor

CLASS OF 1916 PROFESSOR OF ENGLISH EMERITUS,

CORNELL UNIVERSITY



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#### Fifth Edition

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### Preface

This anthology is a selection of the best and most characteristic writings of thirty-four major authors, reprinted (with a few exceptions noted below) from the fifth edition of the two-volume Norton Anthology of English Literature. It also includes a biographical and critical headnote for each author, as well as an introduction to each literary period which sets out the historical and social context and clarifies the relations of individual authors to earlier writings and to the literary and intellectual events of their own era.

The anthology has from its origins been based on the experience of its editors in actually teaching an introduction to English literature, and each edition has been tested by them in the classroom. They continue to be guided by the principles established for the first edition. These are: (1) that the selections make possible a study in some depth of the major British writers in verse and prose (exceptions are novelists and some dramatists whose major works are too long for inclusion); (2) that as many works as space allows be reprinted in their entirety, and that the representation be abundant enough to permit instructors to select from the total those authors and works that each one prefers to teach; (3) that the student be given the most reliable texts available, edited so as to make them readily accessible, and printed in a format that is easy to the hand and inviting to the eve; (4) that the introductions and glosses be adequate to free the student from dependence on reference books, so that the anthology may be read anywhere—in one's room, in a coffee lounge, on a bus, or under a tree; (5) that the anthology be comfortably portable, for if students won't bring the book to class, lectures are hindered and discussions made profitless.

A vital literary culture, however, is always on the move. The policy, accordingly, has been to provide periodic revisions designed to take advantage of improved texts, as well as to stay current with new developments in criticism, the changing interests of readers, and evolving cultural and intellectual concerns. It is now more than a decade since the last Major Authors edition, and two developments have made this an especially propitious time for a revision. First, the original editorial staff has been enlarged with a younger generation of women and men who have worked closely with the founding editors in preparing the present volume. In addition, the two parent volumes of the anthology have been redesigned and reset in a more readable type, thereby making it feasible to introduce extensive changes in the texts. As a result of these developments, the choice of selections has been carefully reconsidered, and the introductions, headnotes, and footnotes have been revised and in some instances totally rewritten.

In revising the Major Authors edition, we have benefited from a steady flow of suggestions by teachers and students, as well as from opinions about the works hitherto included, and proposals for additions or replacements, that were solicited from scores of teachers who use the anthology in their courses. The present volume is thus the product of an ongoing collaboration among editors, teachers, and students, in a way that ensures the inclusion of texts that instructors want to teach, and not simply those the editors have chosen for them. The anthology has

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reached the limit of pages possible in a single volume. Some selections which, as our canvass revealed, were assigned infrequently or not at all have therefore had to be dropped, in order to make space for widely requested additions, or else for supplementing or completing works hitherto represented by more limited excerpts. An overview here of the more important innovations may help the instructor to appraise the opportunities that this new version provides.

One author who was little assigned, Thomas Carlyle, has been dropped, but has been replaced by four new authors, often requested, who greatly expand the range of voices, forms, and subjects contained in the anthology: Christopher Marlow (represented by Dr. Faustus), Elizabeth Barrett Browning (including extensive selections from Aurora Leigh, her equivalent of Wordsworth's Prelude), Virginia Woolf (three short stories, a critical essay, a selection from her trailblazing A Room of One's Own, and an essential memoir), and Dylan Thomas. Some writings by E. B. Browning and Woolf, not in the two parent volumes, have been added to this Major Authors edition.

The prose translation of the complete Beowulf by E. Talbot Donaldson, acclaimed for its accuracy and verve, has been supplemented by a translation in verse by Alfred David of the poignant "Last Survivor's Speech," side by side with the Old English text, to give the student a sense of the strong beat and emphatic alliteration of the original versification. Spenser's "Mutabilitie Cantos," which most teachers found too demanding for use in an introductory course, have been dropped; but the first Book of The Faerie Queene remains complete; October in The Shephearde's Calendar has been replaced by the more interesting Aprill; and the sonnets from Amoretti have been reselected and expanded. In response to numerous requests, Shakespeare's King Lear has been replaced by Henry IV, Part 1 (if supplementary plays are wanted, reliable texts are readily available in low-priced paperbacks), and some of Shakespeare's finest sonnets have been added, to make a total of twenty-nine. Donne and Jonson are better represented by revised and (especially for Jonson) expanded selections. Milton's Samson Agonistes, very rarely assigned, has been omitted, but Paradise Lost is now represented not only by the complete Books 1, 2, and 9, but also by the addition to our earlier selections of almost 900 lines from Books 4, 5, and 8 to fill out the narrative of Adam and Eve before and after the.Fall.

An addition to the earlier selections from Book 3 of Gulliver's Travels, "A Voyage to Laputa," together with all of the other three books, now makes this masterpiece virtually complete. Pope's Eloisa to Abelard has been replaced by Part 3 of his Essay on Criticism, to supplement Parts 1 and 2. Samuel Johnson's eminently teachable Rasselas, we are glad to announce, is now entire, and Johnson's other writings have been supplemented by selections from the preface to his Dictionary of the English Language and a short anthology of its most celebrated definitions, as well as by two Rambler essays on literary subjects. The selections from Blake have been strengthened, and the short excerpts from Jerusalem have been replaced by the whole of his earlier "prophetic book," Visions of the Daughters of Albion, with its radical presentation, fascinating to students, of the parallels between black slavery and the sexual and social oppression of women. When in the last edition of this anthology we included Wordsworth's Two-Part Prelude of 1799, it was not available elsewhere; its ready accessibility now has made it possible to replace it by the addition of 1,400 lines to the author's final version of The Prelude in 1850. Books 1, 2, and 12 are now complete (it should be noted that the first and second books, together with the passage on "spots of time" in Book 12, incorporate almost all of the original Two-Part Prelude). The other books have also been supplemented, both to include Wordsworth's superlative passages—readily locatable, for selective assignment, by the invented subtitles that have been added to the table of contents-and to bring Preface xxvii

out more adequately the overall design of Wordsworth's autobiography of imaginative crisis, recovery, and the discovery of his poetic vocation. Also added is the remarkable *Nutting*, originally planned to be incorporated in *The Prelude*. We have omitted Keats's fragmentary *Fall of Hyperion*, since it was almost never assigned, but have added two more of the remarkable letters that illuminate his life and his intellectual and poetic development.

The selections from Tennyson's In Memoriam have been improved, and Maud has been considerably augmented; the representation of Browning's dramatic monologues has been made more inclusive by the addition of A Woman's Last Word and Karshish; the selections from Hopkins have been strengthened, shifted back to their chronological position among the Victorians, and furnished with a new introduction. Hardy, Lawrence, and Auden have, we think, been improved. At the urgent request of many instructors we reprint, in place of shorter and lesser stories, the undisputed masterworks, Conrad's Heart of Darkness and Joyce's The Dead. We have also replaced fragmented selections from Samuel Beckett with a complete and characteristic drama, Happy Days. At the end of the volume, we have added two visual aids that will be useful to students-exterior and interior views of a London playhouse of Shakespeare's time, drawn especially for us by C. Walter Hodges, author of The Globe Restored, and a schematic drawing of the Ptolemaic universe. Finally, a new supplementary section, "Poems in Process," includes exact transcriptions of working drafts, letters, and early printed versions, to show the different ways in which ten poets, from Milton to Yeats and Lawrence, have worked their initial sketches into a final text. Such drafts, of great interest to students, may be used either in special sections of a course, or else referred to when teaching a poem in its final form; to facilitate the latter procedure, there is a footnote reference under each of the eleven poems in the body of the anthology for which earlier versions are made available.

In accord with the policy that students deserve the most accurate texts available, we continue to introduce improved versions of the works we reprint—in this volume, Wordsworth's Ruined Cottage and The Prelude from the Cornell Wordsworth; Shelley's texts from Shelley's Poetry and Prose, edited by Donald H. Reiman and Sharon B. Powers (Norton Critical Edition, 1977); Keats's poems from the edition by Jack Stillinger (Harvard University Press, 1978); and the poems of Gerard Manley Hopkins from the fourth edition edited by W. H. Gardner and N. H. MacKenzie (Oxford University Press). To ease a student's access to all the other texts, we have normalized spelling and capitalization according to modern usage. There are, however, two large-scale exceptions: (1) Texts are left in the original spelling if modernizing them would alter the meaning or meter, or would obscure distinctive features of the original. Thus the verse of Spenser and Hopkins and the prose of Keats's letters and of Joyce have been reproduced exactly, and only minor changes in his erratic punctuation have been made in the writings etched by Blake. Chaucer is reprinted in the original language; each word, however, has been spelled consistently in that form of its scribal variants that is closest to modern English. (2) We also leave unchanged the texts we have introduced from new or specially prepared editions: Wordsworth's Ruined Cottage and Prelude, and the verse and prose of Shelley and

The paired editors for each period have revised, and sometimes entirely rewritten, the introductory essays, headnotes, and footnotes, to take advantage of recent scholarship as well as to make the editorial materials as tersely and clearly informative as possible. We have minimized commentary that is interpretive rather than, in a very narrow sense, explanatory. It has, however, seemed unwise, in the instance of an especially problematic work or passage, to eliminate any guidance whatever to the student, on the ground that most teachers assign texts which

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there is not time to discuss adequately—or sometimes to discuss at all—in class. What we undertake, in especially difficult instances, is to suggest possibilities in a way that does not foreclose independent judgment and that provides no more

than a point of departure for lectures or dialogue in the classroom.

We retain other procedures that have proved useful in earlier editions. The various introductions, although succinct, eliminate any immediate need for supplementary books on the literary, political, and cultural history of England, or on the lives of individual authors. At the beginning of each introduction we list a few crucial dates by way of preliminary orientation to the student. After each work we cite (when known) the date of composition on the left and that of first publication on the right; in some instances the latter is followed by the date of a revised reprinting. The texts of Chaucer and Spenser, with their large proportion of archaic words, are glossed in the margin so that readers may assimilate the meanings without repeated interruptions to the flow of the reading. In the occasional instances when parts of a work have had to be omitted, that fact is indicated by the word From before the title, and the place of the omission is indicated in the text by three asterisks. If the omitted section is important for following the plot or argument, we provide a brief summary of its content, sometimes within the text but usually in a footnote; where the material makes it feasible, we also provide invented titles (bracketed in the text, and also listed in the table of contents) to identify the subject matter of the passages that have been included. Bibliographical guides at the end of the volume, arranged alphabetically, are provided for each author in the anthology. They have been revised and brought up to date, and are kept short, but include brief comments, so that students may know what writings are particularly adapted to their needs, whether for independent reading or as initial references for assigned essays.

The editors are deeply grateful to the hundreds of teachers, both in North America and on other continents, who helped us improve the parent volumes of the fifth edition; we cannot name them all, but each will recognize changes, in the major authors here represented, that he or she suggested. A separate acknowledgments page names (1) those instructors who told us specifically what they like to teach in their major-authors courses; and (2) special critics of the parent volumes. Two of the contributing editors would like to thank their assistants, Jacqueline Doyle and Patsy Griffin, while the publishers gratefully acknowledge the valuable help of Nina Bouis, Sue Crooks, Ruth Dworkin, Diane O'Connor, Nancy Palmquist, Antonina Krass, and Carol Stiles. Our greatest debt is to two members of W. W. Norton and Company, Inc.—George P. Brockway, who first conceived this anthology and greatly aided its accomplishment, and John Benedict, who has been a superb editor and indispensable collaborator in all editions of this work. They have helped greatly to mitigate the chronic dilemmas in trying to represent, in a single volume, the major authors in the incomparably rich and

diverse heritage of English literature.

M. H. Abrams



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A Vision of the Last Judgment

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