

Introduction to English literature

- Indo-European languages. A short history of English from Celtic languages to Early Modern English. English as a global language. British vs. American English: spelling and pronunciation.

Video:

Why is English so confusing?

- The words of poetry. How to analyse a poem.

Texts:

W. C. Williams, *This Is Just To Say*

Oscar Wilde, *Symphony in Yellow*

Song:

Shinedown, *Three Six Five*

Medieval poetry

- *Beowulf*: plot, themes, language.

Texts:

Beowulf and Grendel: the fight

Beowulf's funeral

- The Medieval ballad.

Text:

Geordie

Links to contemporary times:

Geordie by Fabrizio De Andrè

The rock ballad in the 20th century

- The city of Canterbury and the importance of pilgrimages in the Middle Ages. Geoffrey Chaucer and *The Canterbury Tales*: structure, style, themes, characters.

Texts:

The Prologue

The Prioress

The Wife of Bath

The sonnet

- The sonnet: Italian structure and English structure.

Texts:

Petrarch, *Pace non trovo*

Thomas Wyatt, *I find no peace*

- Shakespeare's sonnets: structure, the addressees and the themes.

Texts:

Sonnet XVIII
Sonnet LX
Sonnet CXXX

- The evolution of the sonnet until contemporary times

Texts:

John Milton, *On His Blindness*
Mary Wroth, Sonnet 16
Claude McKay, *If We Must Die*

Shakespeare the dramatist

- The words of drama.
- Theatre from the Middle Ages to the Elizabethan Age. Shakespeare's plays. How Shakespeare changed the world.

- *Romeo and Juliet*: plot, setting, characters, themes, style.

Texts:

The masque
The balcony scene

- *Othello*: plot, characters, themes, style.

Texts:

Iago's jealousy
Eros and Thanatos

- *Hamlet*: plot, characters, themes, structure. The play within the play.

Texts:

Hamlet meets the ghost
To be or not to be

- *The Merchant of Venice*: plot, characters, themes.

Text:

I am a Jew
The quality of mercy

Writing skills

- Analysis of a text.
- Essay
- Rules of punctuation

Learning to learn and life skills

- Mindfulness
- Self-study tips

Educazione civica

- Residential Schools in Canada. Timeline. The apologies by the government and the Pope.
- Documentary: *We Were Children*.

English conversation

- Poetry Slam and spoken word artists from Canada. Poem “Not yet my mother”
- Reading pledge: talking about books.
- Speaking about residential schools
- Comparing two cities

Libro di testo

AA.VV., *Performer Heritage 2nd edition*, vol. 1, Zanichelli.

Selargius, 20/05/2026