

## English literature in brief

### Part I

Ars longa, vitae brevis est.

Жизнь коротка, искусство вечно.

The culture of every country  
is closely connected with its history.

Pat Rogers

#### 1. The dawn of English literature. Celtic period

The native population of Britain is called the Iberians. About the 4<sup>th</sup> century B.C. (Before Christ) England was called Britain and people who lived there – Britons. They belonged to the Celtic race and spoke the Celtic language. Their culture was primitive, they believed in different gods. Britains were ruled by the Druids (a class of priests).

The literature of the period was oral, they were handed down from generation to generation orally, so nothing is left in a written form. The earliest genres were songs, poems, legends, myths and hymns (religious songs).

In the 1<sup>st</sup> century BC Britain was conquered by the powerful State of Rome, their leader was Julius Caesar. He wrote many interesting accounts of Britain. Many things were given Latin names. Romans were very clever, spoke Latin and began building roads, bridges and many-storeyed houses.

#### 2. Anglo-Saxon period (4-11 centuries)

By the end of the 4<sup>th</sup> century AD Romans had to leave Britain because their own Empire was in danger and they had to defend it from barbaric people. Sea-robbers and other invaders came to Britain. Among them were Angles, Saxons and Jutes. Gradually they formed one nation and their

language was Anglo-Saxon. Anglo-Saxons had letters of their own called runes. They were carved on stone, wood, metal or bone.

People were called folk, they composed lore (stories and poems). Folklore developed, that is stories and poems composed by people. Later a class of professional writer appeared, they were called scribes (from the Latin word scribere = to write).

By the 1100 Britain was called Angle - land or England, the Anglo-Saxon language turned into Old English.

“Beowulf” is the first written poem that reached our days. It is written in verse (in a poetic form), in runes and compiled by the unknown scribe (writer).in the 10th century.

It is a combination of legend and mythology. It is valuable for the vivid description of the life of that period.

Beowulf is a young knight of the Jutes, later people made him a folk king or a chieftain, as he was the wisest man and a skilled knight (warrior). The scene is set on the Scandinavian peninsula among the Danes and Jutes. The poem consists of 2 parts:

- his adventures with a sea monster Grendel and his mother, a water witch;
- his fight with a fire dragon.

Beowulf is brave, honest, unselfish, fierce and cruel in war, but kind to people. He is ready to sacrifice his life for the sake of people, not for his glory.

#### Old English writers

Caedmon (7 c.) is the first English poet who wrote in Latin about the fight of good and evil.

Cynewulf (8 c.) wrote religious poetry in Old English.

Venerable Bede (7-8 c.) is called the first historian in Britain. He wrote about 45 books: theological, histories, grammars and books on science. He traces the development of Christianity in Britain. He wrote in Latin.

Alfred the Great ( 9 c.) translated Bede's Church history from Latin into English. His Anglo-Saxon Chronicle may be called the 1<sup>st</sup> history of England, the 1<sup>st</sup> prose in English literature.

### **3. Norman period ( 11-13 centuries)**

In 1066 Norman Duke William or William the Conqueror crossed the English Channel, won the great battle at Hastings and became the first Norman King. Within 5 years he became complete master of the country. He tried to suppress speaking English. Three languages were spoken Britain:

- Norman-French was the official language spoken at court;
- Latin was the language of documents and church;
- Anglo-Saxon was spoken by common men, later it changed into Old English

New words of French origin appeared:

Troubadours =bards

Chivalry = knighthood

Ballad = dancing song

Romance = love story

Ballads and romances belonged to *Courtuis literature* (literature of the court).

Norman invaders brought their culture, the art of war and *Chivalric Code*.

Norman cycle "*King Arthur and the Knights of the Round Table*" belongs to this period. Arthur, a Celtic chief lived in

the 6<sup>th</sup> century. Romances about him were composed in the 11-14 centuries. In 1485 Sir Thomas Malory compiled them and published in Westminster. Its first title was French – "Morte d'Arthur". The cycle consists of 21 books.

### **4. Pre-Renaissance (14 century)**

The 14<sup>th</sup> century England suffered the Hundred Years War (1337-1400), the plague or pestilence, called by people Black Death. King Edward III ruled the country, London became the residence of Norman kings and the London dialect became the central language. Peasants revolted against the Catholic church, but their revolt was suppressed. Bourgeoisie developed, but feudalism still existed. All this found an echo in literature.

The greatest writer of the period was Geoffrey Chaucer (1340-1400). He is called the last writer of the middle ages and the first of the Renaissance, because he broke away from medieval forms and cleared the way for realism. He wrote not about the bourgeois ideology, but about the things he saw and about people he met. His family was not wealthy, so did not inherit any property, but good education. There were 3 periods of his creative activity: French, Italian and English. His books were copied by hand and cost very much.

His masterpiece "*The Canterbury Tales*" was written in 1384. While travelling on business he met pilgrims and decided to write about the greatest event of the 14<sup>th</sup> century in England – pilgrimage (travelling to saint places on religious purposes) which took place once a year, every spring. People from different social ranks and of different ages and professions participated in pilgrimage and it was very important for them. Millions of them looked forward to it,

they went on a pilgrimage from different parts of the country to different religious towns and cities and stopped in the inns for the night. The most popular place for pilgrimage was Canterbury. Even nowadays it is the greatest religious centre because the first English church was built there. Moreover there is a shrine with relics of *Saint Thomas a'Becket*. So, the source of the plot is taken from real life.

In the book 30 men and women decided to arrange a story-telling competition to break the monotony of their 4-days trip. Each of them had to tell 2 stories on their way to Canterbury and 2 stories on their way back. In the book there is 1 story told by each character and the story of J. Chaucer consisting of 2 parts. They stopped in the *Tabard Inn* and its master, *Harry Baily* was the judge. The prize was free supper. But we don't know the winner, the author gives his readers a chance to choose the story they like best.

The book begins with a long prologue of 800 lines, where all the characters are introduced. Then come the stories, but before each story there is a short prologue criticizing the story-teller.

The value of the book lies in the vast panorama of the 14 century English society created by Chaucer. The author created his own literary language and made up new words. He summed up all types of stories existing in the middle ages. In the book he criticized the church, but did it with humour. In his stories he teaches his readers what is good and what is bad.

### **5. Folk songs and ballads (15 century)**

By the end of the 14<sup>th</sup> century Old English developed into Middle English. Many of the stories, poems and songs came from old French which was a Romanic dialect and the works

so written were called *romances*. In the time when there were no professional writers yet, folk literature was popular – folk songs, fables, fabliau and ballads.

*Fables* are short stories with animals for characters, conveying a moral.

*Fabliau* is a short funny story about cunning humbugs and the unfaithful wives of rich merchants.

*Folk songs* were made up for different occasions: harvest songs, mowing songs, spinning songs, weaving songs, etc.

*Ballads* (Fr.- ballet, Ital.- ballare) are short narratives in verse partly lyrical, partly epic either for singing or reciting. They were often accompanied by musical instruments and dancing. They became the most popular ways of amusement.

There were Dannish, Scottish, and English ballads. They were hero-historical, love, humorous and legendary. The most popular was *Robin Hood cycle*. The first of them appeared in 1445. Since the ballads were printed in 1478 they did not stop appearing. They were translated into Russian in the 18 century and later by Pushkin, Zhukovsky, Gumilev, Marshak, Tsvetayeva, Rozhdestvensky and others.

The cycle includes approximately 40 ballads united by such names as Sherwood Forest, Nottingham, King John, Allan-a-Dale and Marian. It faces 1066 and the 12<sup>th</sup> century, the times of Henry II and his son, Richard I or The Lion-Heart. Robin Hood is an archer or a bowman, an outlaw who robbed the rich to give to the poor.

The name of Robin Hood grew out from the ballads' hero into the national hero. His name is used in proverbs and sayings like: "The hood doesn't make the monk", or "Robin Goodfellow". In the 15-16<sup>th</sup> centuries Robin Hood's Day was celebrated.

## **6. Renaissance (16-17 centuries)**

The “dark middle ages” were followed by the time known in history as the Renaissance or rebirth, revival of learning or reawakening. Renaissance is the name of the period in the cultural development of Europe between the 14 and the 17 centuries. It was the most progressive revolution that mankind had ever experienced. The trend appeared in the 14<sup>th</sup> century in Italy.

It took the art and culture of ancient Greece and Rome for its basis. The glorious epoch was caused by complex economic and social conditions:

- the feudal system was shattered by bourgeoisie which became stronger
- the growth of capitalist elements
- absolute monarchy came into being (the Tudor dynasty – Henry VII and his son Henry VIII)
- final formation of nations and their national languages
- Protestant religion sprang up

### **Humanism**

*Humanism*, a new ideology of the most progressive class - bourgeoisie appeared. It proclaimed the value of human individuality, his initiative and enterprise. It awakened a man after a long period of subordination to God. Earlier he was considered an insignificant grain of sand whose every move was ordered by the will of God. It stated the right and power of a man to change the world. It glorified a man. It placed the man in the centre of attention of writers and scientists, great importance was assigned to intellect, experience and scientific experiments.

### **Inventions and discoveries**

The time demanded positive rational knowledge. The demands were supplied by:

- Copernicus and Kepler in astronomy
- Vesalius and Servetus in medicine
- More, Montaigne and Bacon in philosophy
- Desiderius Erasmus of Rotterdam in philology
- Johannes Gutenberg invented the printing press and William Caxton set it up in Britain
- Columbus, Magellan and Vasco da Gama, Sir Walter Raleigh and Sir Francis Drake in geography
- Leonardo da Vinci put forth the new theory and practice of art
- Michelangelo, Rubens, Rembrandt, Velasquez, Botticelli, Donatello, Bramante and Raphael and were famous artists

In Italy, Germany and France literature arose, so came the classical epochs of Spanish and English literature.

- Giovanni Boccaccio, Francesco Petrarch, Dante Alighieri in Italy
- Erasmus in Netherland
- François Rabelais in France
- Cervantes and Lope de Vega in Spain

### **Renaissance in England (16-17 centuries)**

There were 3 periods in English Renaissance. The first period (the beginning of the 16<sup>th</sup> century) was called the amateur period. The second period was the longest and the most brilliant (the end of the 16<sup>th</sup> and the start of the 17<sup>th</sup>

century). It is also called the Elizabethan Age after Queen Elizabeth the first who ruled the country in 1558-1603. The last period was the decay (the end of the 17<sup>th</sup> century).

The age gave the world many talented English writers and poets like Ben Jonson, Christopher Marlow, Sir Philip Sidney, Sir Walter Raleigh and Thomas More.

The greatest of them was *William Shakespeare*.

### **Development of the theatre**

The middle ages knew religious drama:

*Mysteries* – dramatized episodes from the Bible

*Myracles* – episodes from the life of Saints

*Moralities* –allegorical plays devoted to the struggle of vices and virtues for the human soul

In English cities *Pageants* appeared – pantomimes re-enacting the history of a particular city. They were the source of historical plays for which Renaissance drama is famous.

Plays written by Roman dramatists were staged by university students in Latin. Later on original English plays were written in imitation of these plays. Such were the foundations of the glorious English drama. Later companies of strolling actor appeared who performed in the streets, inn-yards, squares and manors of nobility. In 1572 Queen Elizabeth I passed a decree against vagabonds (actors were treated as such). The exception was made for those who belonged to some noblemen.

In 1576 the 1<sup>st</sup> playhouse was built in London called “The Theatre”. Later “The Swan”, “The Curtain” and other theatres were built. Shakespeare’s Globe was built in 1598, but it was burned by the fire in 1613. It was round, wooden, open to the sky, except for the 3 sheltered galleries for

nobility. A high stage came out into the audience like a peninsula. No women were allowed to act in the theatre. The 1<sup>st</sup> actress appeared in 1660.

### **William Shakespeare (1564-1616)**

William Shakespeare was an unsurpassed dramatist, an unrivalled psychologist a poet, a philosopher of the first magnitude. He was a humanist, a marvelous poet and a learned man.

He was born on the 23<sup>rd</sup> of April, 1564 in Stratford-on-Avon and christened in Holy Trinity Church. In 1582 he married Anne Hathaway and they had 3 children. Shakespeare started writing plays in 1590, in 1592 he left the family and went to England. In 1598 he built “The Globe Theatre”, which he wrote for and where he performed himself. After his theatre was destroyed he was ill and returned to Stratford. It was the tragedy which he could not outlive and in 1616 he died and was buried in Holy Trinity Church graveyard. You can find a bust to him in Westminster Abby’s Poets Corner.

### **Plays**

He was a man of genius, second to none. Shakespeare’s heritage is great: 37 plays, 154 sonnets and 2 longer poems. During the 4 periods of his creative activity he wrote plays of 3 types: comedy, tragedy and historical chronicle (history). His plays are notable for wit and optimism. The most popular of them are: “The Comedy of Errors”, “Romeo and Juliette”, “Midsummer’s Night Dream”, “Julius Ceasar”, “Hamlet”, “Othello”, “King Lear”, “The Taming of the Shrew”, “Macbeth”, “Antony and Cleopatra”. He presented human

problems, rejected feudalism, showed characters in their development, put forth actual social problems.

### **Sonnets**

The sonnets are the key with which Shakespeare unlocked  
his heart  
W.Wadsworth

Each of the sonnets is like a piece of music  
S.Marshak

Sonnet appeared in Italy in the 14<sup>th</sup> century. Among the first and the best sonnet writers was Francesco Petrarch who devoted his collection of 366 sonnets to his beloved Laura.

*Sonnet* is a story in verse (in a poetic form) consisting of 14 lines: 2 stanzas and a final rhymed couplet. The rhyming scheme of Petrarch's works was ABBA CDDC EFG FEG. Shakespeare invented his own type of sonnet different from the Italian or classical one. In his sonnet there are 3 stanzas and 2 final rhyming lines. Shakespeare's rhyming scheme is ABAB CDCD EFEF GG. Shakespeare's sonnets are not his best works, only some of them are masterpieces. However, they occupy a unique place in his heritage because they are the only pieces about himself.

The characters of his sonnets are: the Poet, his Friend and the Dark Lady. The prototypes were W. Shakespeare, Lord Southampton and Emilia Bassano. The sonnets are devoted to a mysterious "W.H." The topics of the sonnets are:

- Implacability of time
- Friendship
- Love
- Devotion
- Life and death

He always tried to find the answer to the question "How can a man outlive the time and triumph over it?" He gives 2 answers to this question. He says man will live forever in his children and in his creations.

Sonnet 66 is the most socially significant sonnet. The poet, showing his time, attacks the vices of it.

"Sonnet 66 may be called the epigraph to great Shakespeare's tragedies." V.G.Belinsky

### **Sonnet 66**

Tired with all these, for restful death I cry,  
As, to behold Desert a beggar born,  
And needy Nothing trim'd in jollity,  
And purest Faith unhappily forsworn,  
And guilded honour shamefully misplaced,  
And maiden Virtue rudely strumpeted,  
And right Perfection wrongfully disgraced,  
And Strength by limping Sway disabled,  
And Art made tongue-tied by Authority,  
And Folly doctor-like controlling Skill,  
And simple Truth miscall'd Simplicity,  
And captive Good attending captain ill.

Tired with all these, from these would I begone,  
Save that, to die, I live my love alone.

### **"Hamlet" (1601)**

"Hamlet" is the most intellectual work in the world literature and the most popular tragedy. It is the hardest work to understand, but it is the greatest creation of Shakespeare. The source of the plot can be found in a Danish chronicle of

1200. A special term *Hamletism* appeared which meant a tendency to treat everything as futile, to doubt everything, to let thought prevail over action.

Hamlet - a lawful heir of the throne is placed poisoning, spying environment. He is a humanist, a scholar. On the contrary, Claudius is a traitor, a hypocrite, a flatterer, a coward, a villain, the most hateful character.

In Hamlet's soliloquy and numerous other monologues all the vices of society are presented, so it is a philosophical and psychological work.

### **Hamlet's Soliloquy**

To be, or not to be, that is the question:  
Whether 'tis nobler in the mind to suffer  
The slings and arrows of outrageous fortune,  
Or to take arms against the sea of troubles,  
And by opposing end them? To die; to sleep:  
No more; and, by a sleep to say we end  
The heartache and the thousand natural shocks  
That flesh is heir to, 'tis a consummation  
Devoutly to be wished. To die, to sleep: ay, there's the rub;  
For in that sleep of death what dreams may come  
When we have shuffled off this mortal coil,  
Must give us pause. There's the respect  
That makes calamity of so long life;

### **7. Enlightenment (17-18 centuries)**

The 2<sup>nd</sup> half of the 17<sup>th</sup> and the 18<sup>th</sup> century was marked by British colonial expansion for the leading role in commerce. It was the period of the growth of capitalism.

It was the Rational Age or the Age of Reason. *Enlightenment* was a public movement to enlighten people, that is to bring them knowledge. It would away with all the injustice in society. The main features of the period are:

- deep hatred of feudalism
- love of freedom and firm belief in human virtue and reason
- they believed in common sense
- a desire for systematic education for all

In literature this period saw a remarkable rise, especially in prose. Prose genres developed: *pamphlet and essay* as press appeared in 1702. The leading genre was a *novel*. Writers tried to teach the readers what was good and evil from their point of view, they criticized aristocracy and praised bourgeoisie. The characters were middle - class people. The writers of the period used clear and polished language and satire. There were 3 periods in English Enlightenment characterized by

classicism in poetry, sentimentalism, rise of realistic drama and social realistic novel.

The most notable representatives are J.Swift, D.Defoe, R.Sheridan, H.Fielding, O.Goldsmith, L.Sterne, T.Smollett. E.Pope and R. Burns developed poetry. J.Dryden was the first literary critic.

### **Daniel Defoe (1661-1731)**

D.Defoe was born in London in 1661. His father was a butcher. His real name was Foe. Daniel was 40 when he changed his signature D.Foe into Defoe. His father was wealthy enough to give his son a good education. At the age of 14 he was enlisted into the Academy for training of

ministers and studied there for 5 years, but he refused to become a minister. He decided to become a merchant but his dream never came true, he was failure in business and went bankrupt several times. He said, "Thirty times I was rich and poor".

The only sphere where he was a success was journalism and literature. At the age of 23 he began writing pamphlets on questions of his time. He attacked the policy of Henry II. He was brave in his thoughts and was not afraid of the government's opinion. Sometimes his pamphlets got him into trouble.

He participated in the rebellion against James II in 1685, but managed to escape prosecution. When the protestant King William III came to power in 1688, Defoe started writing pamphlets praising his policy. It was the beginning of his literary career. During the reign of Queen Ann (since 1702) he wrote a pamphlet in defence in defence of the dissenters, who were persecuted. He attacked the Tories and the established Church. But his irony was subtle. But when they realized the real characters of the pamphlet, Defoe was sentenced to 7 years imprisonment and punished cruelly. He had to stay on a public square with his hands and head in stocks. People threw flowers to him. When he was set free people cheered him and carried him from the square on their shoulders. It was the climax of his political career and the end of it.

He became the editor of a magazine, in 1719 he started writing fiction after "Robinson Crusoe" was published, he became famous and rich. He loved his wife and daughters, but when he fell seriously ill with a mental disease, he fled, as he

didn't want them to see him, he concealed his hiding – place. For 2 years he lived in poverty and alone and died in 1731.

### **"Robinson Crusoe" (1719)**

**"The Life and Strange Surprising Adventures of Robinson Crusoe"** is the most notable of Defoe's novels. The main character spent 28 years on an uninhabited island. The source of the plot was taken from a real story about a Scottish sailor Alexander Selkirk who spent 4 years on a desert island.

After a shipwreck Robinson found himself on a desert island and called it "The Land of Despair". All the rest of the company was drowned and he had neither food, house clothes, nor weapon. He saw nothing but death before him at first. Robinson is very practical, so he regards the island as his personal property. Gradually he takes pride in being the master of the whole island and at the thought that everything around him belongs to him. Crusoe is full of religious superstitions, in the most difficult moments he turns to God for help.

Negro slavery seems natural to him, "master" is the first word he teaches Friday to say. Friday is intelligent, brave, generous and skillful. He is good at learning English and performs all the tasks well. It is Defoe's credit that he portrays the negro as an able, pleasant human being.

The novel is a praise to human labour and the triumph of man over nature. Labour and fortitude help Robinson to endure hardships, save him from despair. The charm of the novel lies in description of Robinson as a person. An unexperienced youth, a frivolous boy becomes a strong-willed man able to withstand all the calamities of his unusual



destiny. He tried not to give way to self-pity or fear, not to lose himself. Optimism is the main trait of his character. His guiding principle was "Never say die" or "In trouble to be troubled is to have your troubles doubled". Another his ability was to put all his heart into everything he did. He was an enthusiastic worker and always hoped for the best.

The novel is a glorification of practicalness and energy. Individualism is typical for Defoe. According to him a man can live alone and doesn't need anybody to assist him. Defoe teaches people how to live, what is good and what is bad. "Robinson Crusoe is not merely a work of fiction, an account of adventure, a biography and an educational work. It is a study of a man shown in his relation to nature and civilization, labour and private property.

### **Jonathan Swift (1667-1745)**

"Swift's wit has conquered the ages"

"My destiny is to write the truth"

D.Defoe

Jonathan Swift was the greatest of prose satirists of the age of Enlightenment. He was born in Dublin, but he came from an English family. There were 13 children in the family, Jonathan was born 7 months after his father died. He was named after his father. At the age of 14 after graduating from school Jonathan entered Trinity College in Dublin which trained clergymen. In 1688 he got his bachelor degree, later Master of Arts degree, but felt that his calling was literature and politics. He wrote political pamphlets for magazines criticizing the colonial policy of England, intending to help common people to relieve their misery. Swift became very popular among the Irish people. In 1713 he got married and

was made a Dean of Saint Patric's Cathedral in Dublin. In 1726 his best work "Gulliver's Travels" made a sensation. In 1728 his wife died and it influenced him greatly. Hard work and disappointment in life undermined his health. His mind was rapidly failing. In 1740 his memory and reason were gone, he was completely deaf. He died in 1745 in Dublin.

His works reflected contemporary life more closely than did the literature of the previous centuries. The Irish people consider Swift their champion in the struggle for the welfare and freedom of their country.

### **"Gulliver's Travels" (1726)**

All Swift's inventive genius and savage satire was at their best in this work. Swift intended to satirize the evils of the existing society in the form of fictitious travels. The adventures of a ship surgeon Lamuel Gulliver attract both children and adults. The book consists of 4 parts:

1. A voyage to Lilliput;
2. A voyage to Brobdingnag;
3. A voyage to Laputa, a flying island; to the island of Balnibari; to Blubdubdrib, an island of magicians; and to Luggnag;
4. A voyage to the country of Houyhnhnms, where the intelligent creatures are horses and all the human beings reduced to the level of brutes.
5. The work is written in the genre of social fantasy.

The 1<sup>st</sup> part is a strong satire against England. Swift despises its insignificance and mocks at the King. His satire is aimed at the King and his court, 2 main political parties; the Whigs and the Tories, the war between France and England and religious controversy.

In the 2<sup>nd</sup> part Brobdingnag is an expression of Swift's desire to escape from the disgusting world of the Lilliputians and to find the ideal: an agricultural country ruled by an ideal monarch. The author creates such a monarch in the King of Brobdingnag.

In the 3<sup>rd</sup> part Swift ridicules the scientists of his time. He criticizes not science itself, but the science that does not serve any practical purpose and is alien to humanity as a whole.

In the 4<sup>th</sup> part the author wants people to see their vices and do away with them.

"I write with the most noble aim – to enlighten and surprise mankind" J.Swift

### **Robert Burns (1759-1796)**

Robert Burns was the most democratic poet of his time, the national pride of Scotland.

He was born on January, 25, 1759. In 1765 he was sent to school at the age of 6, at 17 he started writing poetry to the melodies of his native land. The first collection of poetry was published in 1786 and he became famous. His life was full of hardships and deprivation. He had to help his father on the farm. His job was very hard, it ruined his health. He died at the age of 37 in debts.

The source of his lyrics is the life of common people and Scottish folklore. His ideas are: equality, liberty and brotherhood. His poetry is lyrical, humorous and satirical.

There are 5 motives of Burns' lyrics:

1. Democratic character
2. Revolutionary spirit
3. Patriotism
4. Optimism
5. Love

Robert Burns was a true son of Scottish peasantry. He wrote about peasants and for them, as he was a ploughman himself. He praised a man of labour, he valued neither riches, nor titles, but honesty and industry. He was inspired by the great French revolution, glorified its ideals and called for revolution in England. Robert Burns was a patriot of his country, sang the beauty of its nature, the past of his country when it was free and independent. He calls the Scots to fight against the English oppression.

Burns was a great optimist. He loved life, enjoyed it and believed in happy future. In his poetry he glorifies true love and friendship. His most popular poems are:

"My Father was a farmer"

"Is There for Honest Poverty"

"The Tree of Liberty"

"My Heart's in the Highlands"

"Scotts Wha Hae"

"Caledonia"

"John Barleycorn"

"A Red, Red Rose"

"Auld Lang Syne".

### **8. Pre –Romanticism (the end of the 18 century)**

William Blake, Godwin, Chatterton, Redcliff were interested in folklore. Emotional basis was confronted to rational aesthetics of classicism. Poetry developed. New poetic genres appeared during the period: ode and allegory.

It was a bridge to English Romanticism.

## 9. Rendering the Text

1. The story (extract, excerpt, episode) I'm dealing with/  
I'm going to analyze/  
I'm going to present is entitled...
2. It is taken from...
3. It is written by...
4. It belongs to the genre of...
5. The scene is set  
The action takes place in /is laid/ in...  
The time of action  
The main characters are:
6. I'm going to give back (to retell) the plot (content) in a  
gist ( in brief/ in a nutshell).  
I'm going to expand on...
7. The plot boils down the following:  
The matter stood like this:  
The extract begins with...  
After this..., Later on..., Then.
8. The author shows  
portrays truthfully  
depicts convincingly  
reflects ... sincerely  
reveals in details  
describes vividly  
exposes  
stresses  
condemns...  
underlines the fact that...

conveys the idea of...

deals with...

draws our attention to...

carries out the idea of...

displays interests in...

adheres (sticks) to...

throws light upon...

unmasks...

points out...

glorifies/ sympathizes with,...

expresses his attitude to...

sings out...

touches upon the problem of...

9. The story/novel, etc. reaches its culmination when...

10. To prove this I'll quote the following...

11. The story possesses an interesting plot.

It embraces...

It's in tune with...

The fundamental line is...

It arouses interest...

It appeals to my interest.

I'm keen on...

I get excited...

It evokes the feeling of...

It is teaching /touching, thought provoking, thrilling.

It has an intriguing plot.

It is a hair-raising/horrible story.

12. Now I've all-round image of...

... is an embodiment/ personification/ symbol of...

13. The story is imbued with... is full of...

It has an implication.

The author's digressions prove...

14. I come to conclusion that...

### **10. Questions for the Credit**

1. Anglo-Saxon poetry. The plot and characters of the poem

“Beowulf”.

2. Norman period. Historical value of the Norman cycle

“King Arthur and the Knights of the Round Table”.

3. Pre-Renaissance in England. Geoffrey Chaucer.

Composition, the source of the plot of “The Canterbury Tales”. Historical and literary value of the book

4. English Folk songs and ballads. “Robin Hood” cycle.

Problems, characters, ideas of the ballads.

5. The role and place of the Renaissance in the History of English culture. Periods and representatives.

6. Comedies, tragedies, historical chronicles and sonnets of W. Shakespeare. Shakespeare's contributions into the world literature.

7. Enlightenment in England. Periods and representatives.

8. Creative activity of J. Swift and D. Defoe.

9. Poetry of Enlightenment. Motives of lyrics of R. Burns.

### **10. Темы для докладов**

- Развитие языка в 4-12 веках.
- Первые университеты в Англии: Оксфорд, Кембридж
- Руны (10 век)
- Кэдмон, Бид, Альфред великий
- Романс, басня, фэблио;
- Кентерберии, Кентерберийский собор.
- Ноттингем. День Робин Гуда (Англия 15 век)

• Ренессанс в Италии

• Живопись эпохи возрождения:

Леонардо да Винчи, Микеланджело

• Театр эпохи возрождения

• Р. Сидни, У. Релли, Б. Джонсон, К. Марлоу, Э.Сперсер.

• Сонеты Петрарки

• Т. Мор «Утопия»

• Комедии и трагедии Шекспира

(«Король Лир», «Макбет», «Отелло», «Укрощение строптивой», «Много шума из ничего»)

• Просвещение во Франции.

• Г. Филдинг, Дж. К. Джером.

• Дж. Мильтон «Потерянный рай».