

第一篇

文学史练习

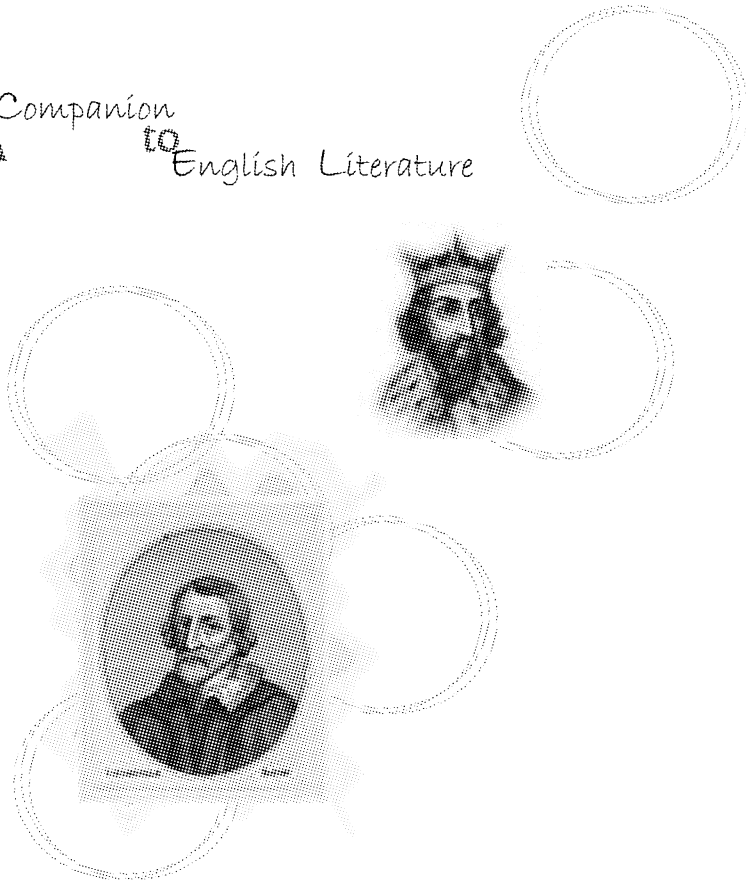
- Part I The Anglo-Saxon Period
- Part II The Anglo-Norman Period
- Part III Geoffrey Chaucer
- Part IV The Renaissance
- Part V The Period of Revolution and Restoration
- Part VI The Age of Enlightenment in England
- Part VII Romanticism in England
- Part VIII The Victorian Age
- Part IX The Twentieth-Century Literature
- Part X Supplementary Match-making Exercises

EXERCISES ON LITERARY HISTORY

Part
I

The Anglo-Saxon Period

A Companion
to English Literature



I. Fill in the following blanks.

1. In 55 B. C. , Britain was invaded by _____, the Roman conqueror. Along with the invasion came the _____ into Britain.
2. The _____ period witnessed a transition from tribal society to feudalism.
3. Angles, Saxons and _____ usually known as Anglo-Saxons are the first Englishmen. Language spoken by them is called the old English, which is the foundation of English language and literature.
4. The literature of the Anglo-Saxon period falls naturally into two divisions, _____ and Christian.
5. Among the early Anglo-Saxon poets there was one poet whose name is _____. He wrote a poetic "Paraphrase" of the Bible, and *Cynewulf*.
6. In the 8th century, Anglo-Saxon prose appeared. The famous prose writers of that period were Venerable Bede and _____.
7. _____ is the oldest poem in the English language, and also the oldest surviving epic in the English language.
8. _____ is the first known religious poet of England. He is known as the father of English song.
9. The didactic poem *The Christ* was written by _____.
10. The early inhabitants on the island now we call England were _____, a tribe of Celts. From the Britons the island got its name of Britain, the land of Britons. The Britons were a _____ people.

II. Choose the best answer for each blank.

1. When we speak of the old English prose, the first name that comes into our minds is _____, who is the first scholar in English literature and has been regarded as father of English learning.
 - a. William Shakespeare
 - b. Beowulf
 - c. Julius Caesar
 - d. Venerable Bede
2. The most important work of Alfred the Great is _____, which is regarded as the best monument of the old English prose.

- a. *The Song of Beowulf*
 - b. *The Anglo-Saxon Chronicles*
 - c. *The Ecclesiastical History of the English People*
 - d. *Brut*
3. _____ is not only a prose writer but also a king of Wessex.
 - a. Alfred the Great
 - b. Venerable Bede
 - c. Adam Bede
 - d. King Arthur
 4. _____ is the first important religious poet in English literature.
 - a. John Donne
 - b. George Herbert
 - c. Caedmon
 - d. Milton
 5. In Anglo-Saxon period, *Beowulf* represented the _____ poetry.
 - a. pagan
 - b. religious
 - c. romantic
 - d. sentimental
 6. Prose literature did not show its appearance until the _____ century.
 - a. 6th
 - b. 7th
 - c. 8th
 - d. 10th
 7. The Anglo-Saxons were Christianized in the _____ century.
 - a. 5th
 - b. 6th
 - c. 7th
 - d. 8th
 8. *Beowulf* describes the exploits of a _____ hero, Beowulf, in fighting against the monster Grendel, his revengeful mother, and a fire-breathing dragon.
 - a. Danish
 - b. Scandinavian
 - c. English
 - d. Norwegian
 9. The Roman occupation lasted for about 400 years in Britain, and in _____, all the Roman troops went back to the continent and never returned.
 - a. 55 B. C.
 - b. 78 A. D.
 - c. 400 A. D.
 - d. 410 A. D.
 10. English literature began with the _____ settlement in England. Of old English literature, *Beowulf*, the national epic of the English people, is an example of the mingling of nature myths and heroic legends.
 - a. Anglo-Saxon
 - b. Roman
 - c. Norman
 - d. Britain

III. Find the relevant match from column B for each item in column A.

- | A | B |
|---------------------------------|--|
| 1. () Alfred the Great | a. <i>The Christ</i> |
| 2. () Venerable Bede | b. <i>Paraphrase</i> |
| 3. () Cynewulf | c. <i>The Anglo-Saxon Chronicles</i> |
| 4. () an unknown scribe | d. <i>The Ecclesiastical History of the English People</i> |
| 5. () Caedmon | e. <i>The Song of Beowulf</i> |

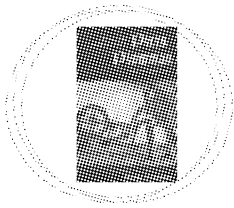
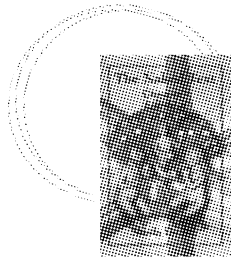
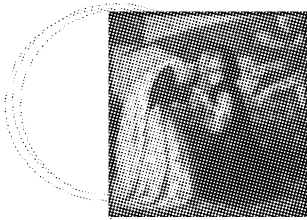
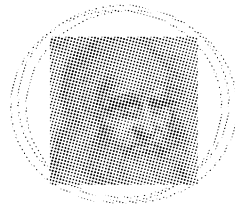
IV. Answer the following questions.

1. What are the main incidents in the poem *Beowulf*?
2. How many groups does the old English poetry fall into? What are they?
3. What are the main characteristics of Anglo-Saxon literature?
4. What are the writing features of *Beowulf*?

Part
II

The Anglo-Norman Period

A Companion
to English Literature



I. Fill in the following blanks.

1. In the year 1066, the Normans defeated the Anglo-Saxons at the battle of _____.
2. In the 14th century, the two most important writers are _____ and Langland.
3. Today Chaucer is acclaimed not only as “the father of English poetry” but also as “the father of English fiction”. His masterpiece is _____.
4. The fifteenth century has been traditionally described as the barren age in English literature. But it is the spring tide of English _____.
5. In the 15th century, there is only one important prose writer whose name is _____. He wrote an important work called *Morte d' Arthur*.
6. After the _____ Conquest, feudal system was established in English society.
7. By the time when England entered into feudal society, the society was divided into two classes: _____ and _____.
8. The year of _____ witnessed a famous peasant uprising led by Wat Tyler and John Ball.
9. The romances were usually composed for the noble, of the noble, and had nothing to do with the _____.
10. English peasants lived little better than slaves. To make things worse, a disease called _____ swept over the country, and a third of the population perished of this terrible plague.

II. Choose the best answer for each statement.

1. In 1066, _____, with his Norman army, succeeded in invading and defeating England.
 - a. William the Conqueror
 - b. Julius Caesar
 - c. Alfred the Great
 - d. Claudius
2. In the 14th century, the most important writer (poet) is _____.
 - a. Langland
 - b. Wyclif

- c. Gower
- d. Chaucer
3. The prevailing form of Medieval English literature is the _____.
 - a. novel
 - b. drama
 - c. romance
 - d. essay
4. The story of _____ is the culmination of the Arthurian romances.
 - a. *Sir Gawain and the Green Knight*
 - b. *The story of Beowulf*
 - c. *Piers the plowman*
 - d. *The Canterbury Tales*
5. William Langland's _____ is written in the form of a dream vision.
 - a. *Kubla Khan*
 - b. *Piers the Plowman*
 - c. *The Dream of John Bull*
 - d. *Morte d' Arthur*
6. After the Norman Conquest, three languages existed in England at that time. The Normans spoke _____.
 - a. French
 - b. English
 - c. Latin
 - d. Swedish
7. _____ was the greatest of English religious reformers and the first translator of the Bible.
 - a. Langland
 - b. Gower
 - c. Wycliffe
 - d. Chaucer
8. *Piers the Plowman* describes a series of wonderful dreams the author dreamed, through which, we can see a picture of the life in the _____ England.
 - a. primitive
 - b. feudal
 - c. bourgeois
 - d. modern
9. The theme of _____ to king and lord was repeatedly emphasized in romances.
 - a. loyalty
 - b. revolt
 - c. obedience
 - d. mockery
10. The most famous cycle of English ballads centers on the stories about a legendary outlaw called _____.
 - a. *Morte d' Arthur*
 - b. *Robin Hood*
 - c. *The Canterbury Tales*
 - d. *Piers the Plowman*

III. Correct the each error in each statement.

1. In 1066, Alexander the Great led the Norman army to invade England. It was called the Norman Conquest.
2. William Langland is the only important prose writer in the fifteenth century.
3. After the Norman Conquest, scholars often wrote chronicles and religious poems in English.
4. *Piers the Plowman* is one of the greatest of English poems, in which, Piers, it should be noted, is by no means a representative of the ruling classes.
5. The story of *Sir Gawain and the Green Knight* is the culmination of the romances about Charles the Great.

IV. Find the relevant match from column B for each item in column A.

- | A | B |
|-------------------------------------|--|
| 1. () William Langland | a. <i>Morte d'Arthur</i> |
| 2. () Geoffrey Chaucer | b. <i>The Canterbury Tales</i> |
| 3. () Thomas Malory | c. <i>Piers the Plowman</i> |
| 4. () Layamon | d. <i>The History of the King of Britain</i> |
| 5. () Geoffrey of Monmouth | e. <i>Brut</i> |
| 6. () unknown author | f. <i>Chanson de Roland</i> |
| 7. () the matters of Britain | g. Alexander the Great |
| 8. () the matters of France | h. <i>The Geste of Robin Hood</i> |
| 9. () the matters of Rome | i. <i>Sir Gawain and the Green Knight</i> |

V. Answer the following questions.

1. What is the influence of the Norman Conquest upon English language and literature?
2. What are the essential features of romance in the medieval English literature?
3. Make comments on the romance *Sir Gawain and the Green Knight*.

4. How many groups do the great majority of the romances fall into? What are they?
5. What are the artistic features of *Piers the Plowman*?
6. What is the most important department of English folk literature? And make comments on its most famous cycle: the Robin Hood Ballads.