

# **Appreciating English Literature**

## **Overview**

# **Appreciating English Literature**

**This is a course for people who wish to know more about great works of literature over the centuries. I cannot hope to cover everything, but hopefully it will give you an overview of some important works and the milestones they created.**

# **Appreciating English Literature**

**We're going to look at five areas of interest:**

- **Early and Middle English**
- **The influence of Shakespeare**
- **Metaphysical Poetry**
- **Romantic Poetry**
- **The English Novel**

# **Why Study Literature?**

**Why study literature in the first place? Here are some of my responses:**

- It's helpful to know who we are by knowing where we've come from**
- In this way, Literature and History are intimately connected**
- Great writers have revealed to us what it means to be human**
- Great writers give us insight into people and events**
- They often show us the world in new and interesting ways**
- Their stories entertain and educate us**
- A broad knowledge of good writing is as useful as a university education**

# **What are the criteria for my choices?**

**My choices are based on the following criteria:**

- I am intimately acquainted with them and the periods in which they were written**
- They represent important milestones in literature's history and development**
- They are approachable and readable, if you come to them with an open mind**
- I believe you will learn a lot from them**
- If you are already familiar with some or all of them, my insights might prove useful**
- I hope my choices stimulate you and encourage you to delve further into the subject**



# **What am I expecting of you?**

- **Try and at least dip into some of the works covered**
- **You can access many of them online completely free**

