

The Middle Ages:

Was devised by Italian humanist thinkers who wished to demarcate their own period (*Renaissance*, Rebirth, Rediscovery of classical thinkers).

→ Thoughts and culture were in fact a development from the Mediaeval period.

- **Dates:**
 - Fall of Rome 410.
 - Renaissance 15th century
- **Major Forces contributed to the making of the Middle Ages:**
 - Christianity.
 - **VALUES:**
 - Regimen of poverty.
 - Obedience
 - Humility
 - Labour
 - Devotion
 - Promote unity of belief and practice:
 - The promulgation of standard sermons
 - Training of bishops
 - The growth of the papacy in power and prestige into a focus of allegiance and obedience.
 - Germanic tribes.
 - **VALUES:**
 - Courage
 - Honour
 - Loyalty
 - Protection
 - Obedience
 - Humility & Trust (often) in divine providence.
 - Developed into the system of feudalism. (obligations between rulers and subjects)
 - *Roman administrative and legal system*
 - *Classical world*
 - *Islamic civilization*

The Later Middle Ages: (1050)

- The system of feudalism achieved a relatively stable formation.
 - Society was divided into two classes: (Lords & poor)
 - *The city* was another element in feudalism.
 - Cities were dominated by two types of organizations. (Merchant guilds & Artisan guilds).
 - Regulate the means of production by sustaining their members in times of hardship.

BEOWULF: I

- Epic poem. (adventures, hero, long poem, struggle of good & evil)
- Theme: Good Vs. Evil, Heroism(abilities)
- *Protagonist*: Beowulf.
- *Antagonist*: Grendel, Grendel's mother, dragon
- ***GRENDDEL***:
 - Description: Monster.
 - Lineage: descendant of Cain.
 - Symbolism: evil & jealousy
 - Grievance: out cast.
- ***Hall Significance***:
 - Symbol of hope, light, and strength.
 - Place for feasting and singing.
 - Place of greatness.
 - Place of light and refuge.
- ***BEOWULF***:
 - Danish Warrior.
 - Looking for glory & happiness

BEOWULF: II

- **Different Element:**

Christian

- Humility
- Faith
- Obedience
- Sacrifice
- Goodman
- Fate

Pagan

- Loyalty
- Courage
- Strength *physical
- Glory
- gold

THE WIFE'S LAMENT:

- **Circumstances? Where is she?**
 - The land on the sea
 - Hole in the ground
- **Wife's emotional state?**
 - Depressed, resigned, sad, broken
- **Attitude to her husband?**
 - He left their community for a distant land.
 - She had plans to find him and to re-join her husband but was thwarted by her husband's siblings.
 - She then commanded to live in a hole in the ground alone.
- **Theme:** sorrow, grief, sadness, exile.

GENERAL PROLOGUE:

- Significance of April/spring.
 - Symbol of spring
 - Renew nature
 - Singing birds
 - Rebirth
- Character's Narrative Techniques: (realism *detailed descriptions, irony, idolism)
 - Description of Prioress:
 - Elegant
 - Worthy
 - Good manners
 - Educated
 - Merciful
 - Description of Monk:
 - Hobbies (hunting & riding horses) instead of praying and worshipping god. *doesn't follow the rule of the monastery
 - Appearance: grey fur with gold trinkets instead of rosary.

THE PARDONER'S PROLOGUE:

- **Theme:** "*Radix malorum est cupiditas*" (greed is the root of evil)
- **Rhetorical techniques:**
 - Uses irony in his prologue (he goes from church to church *were people go to pray, and fool people and steal their money)
- **Description of character:**
 - Manipulates the poor and cheats people by selling indulgences and fake relics
 - Very scrawny and shifty

THE PARDONER'S TALE:

- **Three roisters** *people who commit a lot of sins (drinking, gambling, swearing)
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- **Meaning of "Death"**
 - Death is personified as a traitor who robs man of his heart.
 - When the three roisters went to death's place they found money instead. *is the gold death?
- **Significance of old man**
 - He is the vehicle in the story to teach them the lesson about greed that leads to their deaths.
- **Moral of the tale:**
 - people who do not spend their time preparing for the more afterlife in heaven are allowing their souls to die a final death of eternal damnation.