

Timeline of English poetry, grouped by period:

Old English (449-1066):

- The earliest known English poems are from the Old English period. These poems are often characterized by their use of alliteration, a poetic technique that involves repeating the same consonant sound at the beginning of multiple words.
- Some of the most famous Old English poems include *Beowulf*, *The Dream of the Rood*, and *Cædmon's Hymn*.

Middle English (1066-1485):

- After the Norman conquest of England in 1066, the English language began to change significantly. This new form of English is known as Middle English.
- Middle English poetry is characterized by its use of rhyme and meter, which were introduced to England by the Normans.
- Some of the most famous Middle English poems include *The Canterbury Tales* by Geoffrey Chaucer, *Sir Gawain and the Green Knight*, and *Pearl*.

Early Modern English (1485-1800):

- The Early Modern English period is often seen as the golden age of English poetry. This is the period during which some of the most famous English poets, such as William Shakespeare, Edmund Spenser, and John Milton, wrote their work.
- Early Modern English poetry is characterized by its variety and innovation. Poets of this period experimented with different forms and styles, and they wrote about a wide range of topics.
- Some of the most famous Early Modern English poems include *Hamlet* by William Shakespeare, *The Faerie Queene* by Edmund Spenser, and *Paradise Lost* by John Milton.

Romantic Period (1780-1830):

- The Romantic period was a time of great change and upheaval in England. The Industrial Revolution was transforming the country, and the French Revolution had challenged traditional social and political order.
- Romantic poets were interested in exploring the individual's relationship to nature and society. They also wrote about the importance of imagination and emotion.
- Some of the most famous Romantic poets include William Wordsworth, Samuel Taylor Coleridge, Percy Bysshe Shelley, and John Keats.

Victorian Period (1833-1901):

- The Victorian period was a time of great prosperity and progress in England. However, it was also a time of great social and economic inequality.
- Victorian poets were interested in exploring a wide range of topics, including love, loss, faith, and social justice. They also wrote about the changing world around them.
- Some of the most famous Victorian poets include Alfred, Lord Tennyson, Robert Browning, Elizabeth Barrett Browning, and Matthew Arnold.

Modern Period (1901-present):

- The Modern period of English poetry is characterized by its diversity and experimentation. Poets of this period have experimented with different forms and styles, and they have written about a wide range of topics.
- Some of the most famous Modern poets include T.S. Eliot, W.B. Yeats, Ezra Pound, and William Carlos Williams.

The four main branches of literature are:

- **Poetry:** Poetry is a type of literature that uses language in a creative and expressive way. It often uses rhythm, rhyme, and imagery to create a specific effect on the reader. Poetry can be about a wide range of topics, including love, loss, nature, and society.
- **Fiction:** Fiction is a type of literature that tells stories that are not based on real events. Fiction can be set in the past, present, or future, and it can feature characters and events that are completely imaginary. Fiction is often used to entertain readers, but it can also be used to explore serious topics and themes.
- **Non-fiction:** Non-fiction is a type of literature that provides information about the real world. Non-fiction can be about a wide range of topics, including history, science, current events, and personal experiences. Non-fiction is often used to inform and educate readers, but it can also be used to entertain and inspire.
- **Drama:** Drama is a type of literature that is written to be performed on stage. Drama typically features dialogue between characters, as well as stage directions that tell the actors how to move and speak. Drama is often used to explore complex themes and emotions, and it can be a very powerful and moving form of art.

In addition to the four main branches of literature, there are also a number of subgenres. For example, fiction can be divided into genres such as science fiction, fantasy, mystery, and romance. Non-fiction can be divided into genres such as biography, history, and self-help. And drama can be divided into genres such as tragedy, comedy, and musical.