

CONTENTS

| | |
|---|-----|
| By Way of Introduction | 5 |
| Preface to the Second Edition | 7 |
| Old English Period | 9 |
| Riddles | 9 |
| Beowulf | 9 |
| The Battle of Maldon | 11 |
| The Seafarer | 12 |
| Middle English Period | 14 |
| Sir Gawain and the Green Knight | 14 |
| Cuckoo Song | 22 |
| In April | 22 |
| I Sing of a Maiden | 24 |
| William Langland: Piers Plowman | 25 |
| Geoffrey Chaucer: The Canterbury Tales | 28 |
| Sir Patrick Spens | 32 |
| Robin Hood and the Widow's Sons | 34 |
| Sir Thomas Malory: Le Morte Darthur | 40 |
| The York Cycle of Mystery Plays | 43 |
| Everyman | 48 |
| Renaissance | 50 |
| Sir Philip Sidney: Come, Sleep | 50 |
| Edmund Spenser: Sonnet LXXV. | 50 |
| William Shakespeare: XVIII. | 51 |
| LXVI. | 52 |
| Christopher Marlowe: The Tragical History of Doctor Faustus | 53 |
| William Shakespeare: King Richard II. | 54 |
| Hamlet | 56 |
| Othello | 60 |
| Romeo and Juliet | 61 |
| Henry V. | 63 |
| King Lear | 68 |
| The Seventeenth Century | 80 |
| Ben Jonson: Volpone | 80 |
| John Donne: Death Be Not Proud | 84 |
| A Valediction: Forbidding Mourning | 84 |
| Richard Lovelace: To lucasta, Going to the Wars | 86 |
| Robert Herrick: To the Virgins, to Make Much of Time | 87 |
| Henry Vaughan: Peace | 87 |
| Thomas Hobbes: Leviathan | 89 |
| John Milton: Paradise Lost | 90 |
| Samuel Pepys: The Diary | 94 |
| The Eighteenth Century | 97 |
| Daniel Defoe: Robinson Crusoe | 97 |
| Moll Flanders | 98 |
| John Swift: Gulliver's Travels | 101 |
| A Modest Proposal | 103 |
| Alexander Pope: The Rape of the Lock..... | 107 |
| Essay on Man | 109 |

| | |
|---|-----|
| Samuel Richardson: Pamela | 111 |
| Henry Fielding: Tom Jones | 113 |
| Thomas Gray: Ode on the Death of a Favourite Cat | 116 |
| Elegy Written in a Country Churchyard | 118 |
| Samuel Johnson: A Dictionary of the English Language | 119 |
| Laurence Sterne: Tristram Shandy | 120 |
| Richard B. Sheridan: The School for Scandal | 122 |
| Fanny Burney: Evelina | 124 |
| Mary Wollstonecraft: A Vindication on the Rights of Woman | 126 |
| Robert Burns: My Love is Like a Red, Red Rose | 127 |
| John Anderson My Jo | 127 |
| William Blake: Tiger | 128 |
| The Garden of Love | 129 |
| London | 130 |