**English Poetry**

**The 16th. and 17th. Poetry**

**by**

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**Oct. 2023**

**Introduction:**

Renaissance poetry is a broad term that encompasses the poetry written in England during the Renaissance period, which lasted from the late 15th century to the early 17th century. This period was marked by a renewed interest in classical literature and philosophy, as well as a celebration of humanism and individualism. Renaissance poetry reflects these influences in its focus on beauty, love, and the human condition.

One of the most characteristic features of Renaissance poetry is its use of figurative language and imagery. Renaissance poets used metaphors, similes, personification, and other poetic devices to create vivid and evocative descriptions of the world around them. They also used figurative language to explore complex ideas and emotions in a creative and imaginative way.

Another important characteristic of Renaissance poetry is its experimental nature. Renaissance poets were not afraid to experiment with new poetic forms and styles. They were influenced by classical literature, but they also developed their own unique poetic voices. Some of the most popular poetic forms of the Renaissance period include the sonnet, the blank verse, and the metaphysical conceit.

Renaissance poetry also explores a wide range of themes, including love, loss, religion, politics, and the natural world. Renaissance poets were interested in exploring the human condition in all its complexity. They wrote about the joys and sorrows of love, the challenges of faith, and the beauty of the natural world.

**Some of the most famous Renaissance poets include:**

* William Shakespeare
* Edmund Spenser
* John Donne
* John Milton
* Sir Philip Sidney
* Christopher Marlowe
* Ben Jonson
* Walter Raleigh

**The most important elements of Renaissance English poetry:**

* **Experimentation and innovation**: The poets of this period were not afraid to experiment with new poetic forms and styles. They were also influenced by classical literature and the Italian Renaissance.
* **Introduction of the sonnet**: The sonnet is a 14-line poem with a specific rhyme scheme and meter. It was introduced to England in the 16th century and quickly became one of the most popular poetic forms.
* **Rise of courtly love poetry**: Courtly love poetry is a type of love poetry that idealizes the beloved and the poet's willingness to suffer for his love. It was very popular in the 16th century.
* **Exploration of a wide range of themes**: The poets of this period wrote about a variety of themes, including religion, politics, the natural world, and love.
* **Use of figurative language and imagery**: The poets of this period used figurative language and imagery to create vivid and evocative poems.
* **Focus on the individual and the human experience**: The poets of this period were interested in exploring the human experience, including the emotions, thoughts, and relationships of individuals.
* **Development of new poetic forms and styles**: The poets of this period developed new poetic forms and styles, such as the sonnet, the blank verse, and the metaphysical conceit.
* **Influence of classical literature and the Italian Renaissance:** The poets of this period were heavily influenced by classical literature and the Italian Renaissance.

**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.

**Difference Between Prose and Poetry:**

**Definition:**

* Prose is a type of literature in which the language is used in its natural and organic form.
* Poetry is a type of literature that employs the aesthetic and rhythmic characteristics of language to convey meaning.

**Rhythm and Rhyme:**

* Prose is not concerned with rhyme or rhythm.
* Poetry is concerned with rhyme and rhythm, which are vital elements of a poem.

**Words:**

* Prose: There is usually no word restriction for the writer.
* Poetry: Poets Employ a fixed number of words.

**Structure:**

* Prose: The concepts are written in sentences, which are then organized into paragraphs.
* Poetry is composed of lines that are organized into stanzas.

**Language:**

* Prose: The vocabulary is more grammatical and natural.
* Poetry:The language is metaphorical and rhythmical in poetry.

**Understandability:**

* Prose: Most prose can be comprehended with only one reading.
* Poetry: Understanding the content of a poem may require more than one viewing.

**Poetry is classified into several categories:**

* Lyric poetry: Lyric poetry is poetry that expresses the poet's personal thoughts and feelings. It is often short and emotional, and it may use figurative language and imagery to create a vivid and evocative experience for the reader. Some examples of lyric poetry include sonnets, odes, and elegies.
* Narrative poetry: Narrative poetry tells a story. It may be long or short, and it may use a variety of poetic devices, such as plot, character, setting, and conflict, to engage the reader. Some examples of narrative poetry include epics, ballads, and romances.
* Dramatic poetry: Dramatic poetry is written to be performed on stage. It typically includes dialogue between characters, as well as stage directions that tell the actors how to move and speak. Some examples of dramatic poetry include tragedies, comedies, and musicals.
* Free verse: Free verse poetry is not bound by the rules of traditional poetry, such as meter and rhyme. It is often characterized by its use of natural language and its focus on the poet's own unique voice. Some examples of free verse poetry include imagism, haiku, and concrete poetry.

**In addition to these general categories, there are many other specific kinds of poetry, such as:**

* Sonnet: A sonnet is a 14-line poem with a specific rhyme scheme and meter.
* Ode: An ode is a poem that praises or celebrates a person, place, or thing.
* Elegy: An elegy is a poem that mourns the death of a loved one.
* Epic: An epic is a long narrative poem that tells the story of a hero or героиня's journey.
* Ballad: A ballad is a short narrative poem that is often set to music.
* Romance: A romance is a narrative poem that tells the story of two lovers.
* Imagery: Imagist poetry is characterized by its use of vivid and evocative imagery.
* Haiku: A haiku is a Japanese poem that consists of three unrhymed lines with a specific syllable count.
* Concrete poetry: Concrete poetry is a type of poetry that uses the visual arrangement of words to create a specific effect.

**Figures of Speech in the Poetry:**

* Simile: A simile is a comparison of two things using the words "like" or "as." For example: "Her lips were as red as roses."
* Metaphor: A metaphor is a comparison of two things without using the words "like" or "as." For example: "Her lips were roses."
* Personification: Personification is giving human qualities to non-human things. For example: "The wind whispered through the trees."
* Hyperbole: Hyperbole is an exaggeration for effect. For example: "I'm so hungry I could eat a horse."
* Understatement: Understatement is the opposite of hyperbole. It is a deliberate understatement of the truth for effect. For example: "It was a bit chilly outside."
* Oxymoron: An oxymoron is a combination of two contradictory terms. For example: "jumbo shrimp" or "bittersweet."
* Alliteration: Alliteration is the repetition of consonant sounds at the beginning of words. For example: "Peter Piper picked a peck of pickled peppers."
* Assonance: Assonance is the repetition of vowel sounds within words. For example: "The rain in Spain stays mainly on the plain."
* Onomatopoeia: Onomatopoeia is the use of words that sound like the thing they describe. For example: "bang," "boom," "pop."