

# THE MEDIEVAL ERA

## 476-1485

The Medieval period starts with the fall of the Roman Empire and the emergence of Christianity as a dominant force in Europe. Heroic tales contrasted with apocalyptic fears to create an era of religious fervor.

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*highlights*

1485

**1348:** The Black Death decimates Britain

**1066:** The Norman Invasion

**793:** First Viking attack of Britain

**476:** Fall of Rome

476

# REPRESENTATIVE LITERARY WORKS

“Caedmon’s Hymn,” 7th century (oldest surviving poem in Old English)

*The Gododdin*, Aneirin, 7th century (Old Welsh)

*Beowulf*, late 9th century (Old English)

“The Dream of the Rood,” 10th century (Old English)

*The Tain*, edited early 12th century (Old Irish)

*The History of the Kings of Britain*, Geoffrey of Monmouth (about 1138) (Latin)

*Lanval*, Marie de France, second half of the 12th century (Anglo-Norman)

“The Cuckoo Song,” 13th century (Middle English)

*Sir Orfeo*, c. 1330 (Middle English)

*Pearl*, 14th century (Middle English)

*Sir Gawain and the Green Knight*, 14th century (Middle English)

“Tale of a Wayside Inn,” Dafydd ap Gwilym 14th century (Middle Welsh)

*Cornish Ordinalia*, mid 14th century (Middle Cornish)

*The Canterbury Tales*, Geoffrey Chaucer (Middle English)

*Piers Plowman*, William Langland 14th century (Middle English)

*A Book of Showings*, Julian of Norwich late 14th/early 15th century (Middle English)

*The Second Play of the Shepherds*, 15th century (Middle English)

*The Book of Margery Kempe*, Margery Kempe 15th century (Middle English)

*Mankind*, 15th century (Middle English)

“Robin Hode and the Munke,” c. 1460 (Middle English)

“Lament for the Makars,” William Dunbar 15th-early 16th century (Scots)

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