



A Brief History of English Literature

2nd edition

John Peck, Martin Coyle

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This new edition of an established text provides a succinct and up-to-date historical overview of the story of English literature. Focusing on how writing both reflects and challenges the periods in which it is produced, John Peck and Martin Coyle combine close readings of key texts with recent critical thinking on the interaction of literary works and culture. Providing a lively introductory guide to English literature from Beowulf to the present day, the authors write in their characteristically lucid and accessible style. A true masterpiece of clarity and compression, this is essential reading for undergraduate students coming across the vast areas of English literature for the first time and looking for a way of making critical sense of the texts being studied. In addition, the concise nature and narrative structure of this book makes it excellent reading for general readers.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Preface
 Acknowledgements
 1. Old English Literature
 2. Middle English Literature
 3. Sixteenth-Century Poetry and Prose
 4. Shakespeare
 5. Renaissance and Restoration Drama
 6. Seventeenth-Century Poetry and Prose
 7. The Eighteenth Century
 8. The Novel: The First Hundred Years
 9. The Romantic Period
 10. Victorian Literature 1837-1857
 11. Victorian Literature 1857-1876
 12. Victorian Literature 1876-1901
 8 more...

FEATURES

- Pacy, readable and concise introductory history of English literature aimed at new undergraduates beginning their studies, and the general reader
- Places texts in their social, political and cultural context
- Easy-to-read chronological narrative, providing an overview of each period with close analysis of selected key texts
- Combines sense of the larger movement of literature with focus on particular authors and texts
- Covers canonical and non-canonical texts
- Established authors, well-known for writing clear, accessible books for students