

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 D'arthur	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 Luv is Like a Red, Red Rose	127
John Anderson My Jo	127
William Blake: Tiger	128
The Garden of Love	129
London	130