

Libro di testo: Performer Heritage vol. 1, Zanichelli, supportato da materiale selezionato da internet dall'insegnante. Tutti i testi sono stati letti e commentati in classe.

UNIT 1: The Birth of a Nation

- Celtic and Roman Britain
- A language in the making: the three phases of the English language; the great vowel shift
(https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Great_Vowel_Shift#/media/File:Great_Vowel_Shift.svg)
- The oral tradition

Beowulf

- Confronto tra la versione originale in *Old English* con la versione in *Modern English* (disponibile sul sito <https://www.mit.edu/~jrising/webres/beowulf.pdf>)
- Germanic legend in old English poetry
- The epic poem
- The plot in context
- The heroic ideal
- Lettura e comprensione degli estratti selezionati dal libro di testo
- Visione di una parte del film Beowulf di Graham Baker (1998)

UNIT 2: The Middle Ages

- From Old English to Middle English
- The Normans, The French influence, The medieval ballad
- Middle English ballads:
 - *Lord Randal* (lettura, traduzione e analisi)
- and their contemporary version:
 - **Bob Dylan:** *A Hard Rain's A-Gonna Fall* (ascolto, comprensione e analisi). Ascolto della versione di Patti Smith alla cerimonia del Nobel a Dylan (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=941PHEJHCwU>)

Geoffrey Chaucer

The Canterbury Tales:

- Innovation in language
- Interlinear translation Middle and Modern English
(<https://chaucer.fas.harvard.edu/pages/text-and-translations>)
- The structure of the Tales
- Chaucer's pilgrims: a portrait of middle-class England

Lettura e analisi dei personaggi dal *General Prologue*:

- *The Wife of Bath*
- *The Wife of Bath's Tale* (storia e temi)

UNIT 3: The Renaissance

- The first Tudors and The Act of Supremacy
- A theater for the English nation (the structure of theaters, the Globe, the company of players)

William Shakespeare : the man and the playwright

Shakespeare's Sonnets:

- The Petrarchan and the English Sonnet
- The dark lady, the fair youth, the rival poet
- Main themes of the collection: love and time
- The iambic pentameter

Ted-Talk di Akala: *Shakespeare or hip-hop?*

(<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DSbtkLA3GrY>)

Crash course: Shakespeare's Sonnets:

<https://thecrashcourse.com/courses/shakespeares-sonnets-crash-course-literature-304/>

Ascolto, lettura, traduzione e analisi di:

- *Shall I Compare Thee to a Summer Day?* (anche nella versione cantata da David Gilmour)
- *My Mistress' Eyes Are Nothing Like the Sun*

Shakespeare's plays:

Romeo and Juliet: Trama, personaggi e temi.

Video summary Sparknotes:

<https://www.sparknotes.com/shakespeare/romeojuliet/video-summary/>

Lettura e analisi dei seguenti brani:

- *The Prologue*
- *Only Your Name Is My Enemy*
- *With a kiss I die*

Hamlet: Trama, personaggi e temi.

Video summary Sparknotes:

<https://www.sparknotes.com/shakespeare/hamlet/video-summary/>

Versione Simpson: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=O41bHX7kUPU>

- Lettura e analisi del soliloquio *To be or not to be*

Roma, 6 giugno 2025

Caterina Galione

Per le studentesse e gli studenti