

In the all-European context

- Dante Alighieri, Petrarch, Giovanni Boccaccio
- Venice, Florence, Genoa
- Mid-XVth C the invention of the printing press by Johannes Gutenberg, a goldsmith

- 1492 Columbus' discovery of America that gives rise to numerous sea voyages and expeditions and finally changes England's inner policy and its international status
- late 15th C the first printing books appear in England

Historical events in England

· 1337-1453

Hundred Years' War

· 1381

 Peasants' Revolt against feudals in Kent under the leadership of Wat Tyler

· 1382

 The Bible was translated into English by John Wycliff

· 1455-85

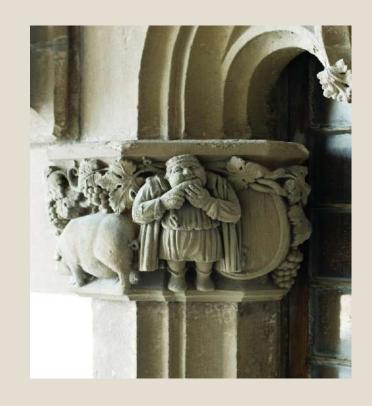
Wars of Roses between the Yorks and Lancasters

William Langland (1330? – 1400?). The Vision of William concerning Piers the Plowman

- Visionary literature. A vision is a literary device in which a dream or vision is recounted as having revealed knowledge or a truth not available to the dreamer in a normal waking state.
- Allegory. A common language of medieval art. A literary device in which ideas and concepts are represented through personified images. E.g. allegory of deadly sins (Greed, Pride, Gluttony, etc.)

Medieval allegories





"Pearl Poet"

4 poems dating back to late XIV – early XVth C:

Pearl

Purity

Patience

Sir Gawain and the Green Knight

Geoffrey Chaucer (1340-1400)

- The translation of "Roman de la Rose", "The Book of the Duchess"
- The translation of De Consolatione Philosophiae written by Boece, "The House of Fame", an unfinished allegorical poem, "Troilus and Criseyde", "The Legend of Good Women"
- "The Canterbury Tales"