

Libro di testo: A. Cattaneo, D. De Flaviis, M. Muzzarelli, S. Knipe: *L&L literature and language*, vol.1
Signorelli Scuola

UNIT 1: The Birth of a Nation

- Celtic and Roman Britain
- Anglo Saxon Britain and the Germanic Heritage
- A language in the making: the three phases of the English language
- The oral tradition

Beowulf

- Confronto tra la versione originale in *Old English* con la versione in *Modern English* (disponibile sul sito <http://legacy.fordham.edu/halsall/basis/beowulf-oe.asp>)
- Germanic legend in old English poetry
- The plot in context
- The heroic ideal
- *The Coming of Beowulf* (lettura, traduzione e analisi)
- Visione di una parte del film Beowulf di Graham Baker (1998)

UNIT 2: The Middle Ages

- The Normans
- The Magna Charta
- The French influence
- The medieval writer and reader
- From Old English to Middle English
- Middle English lyrics and ballads
- The medieval notion of originality
- Ted Talk: Discovering the secrets of ancient texts
https://www.ted.com/talks/gregory_heyworth_how_i_m_discovering_the_secrets_of_ancient_texts

Lord Randal (lettura, traduzione e analisi)

Bob Dylan: A Hard Rain's A-Gonna Fall (lettura, traduzione e analisi)

Ascolto della versione di Patti Smith alla cerimonia del Nobel a Dylan

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=941PHEJHCwU>

Lettura, ascolto e riflessioni sul discorso di accettazione del Premio Nobel

<https://www.nobelprize.org/prizes/literature/2016/dylan/lecture/>

Geoffrey Chaucer: The father of English poetry

The Canterbury Tales

- The structure of the tales
- Chaucer's pilgrims
- A Portrait of middle-class England

Lettura e analisi di:

- *General Prologue* versi 1-42 (confronto tra la versione originale in *Middle English* e quella in *Modern English*)
- *The Wife of Bath*
- *The Miller*
- *The Pardoner*
- *The Prioress*

- *The Knight*

Trama e temi di:

- *The Wife of Bath's Tale*

UNIT 3: The Renaissance

- The first Tudors and the Reformation
- The Act of Supremacy
- The Reformation and the English Bible
- Life in Renaissance England

The birth of Modern English

William Shakespeare

- The early years
- The beginning of his career
- The successful 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
-

Ascolto, lettura, traduzione e analisi di:

- *Shall I Compare Thee to a Summer Day?* (anche nella versione cantata da David Gilmour)
-

Shakespeare's plays:

- Shakespeare's Plays
- The dating of Shakespeare's plays
- The First Folio
- Shakespeare's themes
- The universality of Shakespeare

Romeo and Juliet: plot, characters and themes

- *The Prologue*
- *Only Your Name Is My Enemy*

The Merchant of Venice plot, characters and themes

- *I'm a Jew*
- *Hath a Dog Money*
- (visione di alcune party del film "The Merchant of Venice" di Michael Radford)

Hamlet plot, characters and themes

- *To be or not to be*
- Visione di alcune scene del film "Hamlet" di Kenneth Branagh

Roma, 8 giugno 2021