Attendance Question

Which of Chaucer's Canterbury pilgrims do you find most compelling?

- Wife Bath (39)
- Knight (32)
- Monk (12)
- Squire (9)
- Prioress (9)
- Pardoner (7)
- Doctor (6)
- Parson (5)
- Clerk (3)
- Miller (2)
- Sergeant (1)
- Franklin (1)
- Shipman (1)
- Plowman (1)
- Summoner (1)
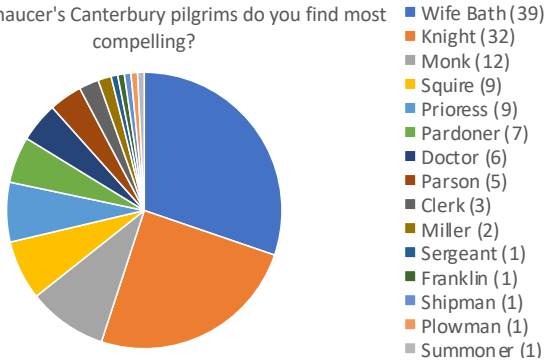
✍ The Sixteenth Century (1485-1603)

- coincided with the Renaissance, a French word meaning "rebirth" that referred to a new blossoming of art, culture, and thought in Europe
- coincided with the Reformation, a movement initiated in Germany by Martin Luther, which upended the authority of the Catholic Church
- closely associated with the reign of Elizabeth I, the beloved "Virgin Queen" whose shrewdness consolidated the power of the Throne
- Caxton's development of moveable type enhanced literacy by making printed matter available in greater quantities and speed, at lower cost
- the output of dramatists, especially Shakespeare, boosted the influence of the theatre as a source of culture, entertainment, and publishing
- resulted in an explosion of new poetic styles and forms (*NAEL* B3-35)

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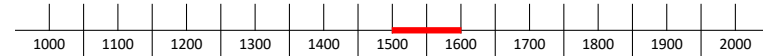
Renaissance

humanism

- 19th C term for the values of the Renaissance, including the expansion of human capacities
- advanced the idea that humanind was advancing towards a perfect balance of physical, spiritual, moral, and intellectual faculties
- a radical departure from the Mediaeval conception of humankind as sinful, limited, and fallen (Baldick 170-71)

- the "rebirth" of literature, art, learning that transformed Europe from the fourteenth century
- influenced by the rediscovery of the Classics and accelerated by the development of printing
- resulted in seismic shifts in society, including the emergence of humanism, Protestantism, Copernican astronomy, etc.
- vernacular literature, lyric poetry, Classical revivals, etc. flourished during this time (Baldick 306-07)

The Reformation

- major theological movement in 16th-C Europe that challenged the authority of Catholicism
- marked the beginning of Protestantism and resulted in a major schism in Christianity
- considered to have started in 1517 with the publication of Luther's Ninety-Five Theses
- argued that salvation was a status based on faith in Christ, not a process involving good works, as in the Catholic view (*Wikipedia*)

## Kings and Queens of England and Britain

Sixteenth Century

- **1485: Henry VII** (Tudor dynasty, united warring Lancaster and York)
- **1509: Henry VIII** (excommunicated from Catholic, began English Church)
- **1547: Edward VI** (only son of Henry VIII, reigned Protestant for 6 years)
- **1553: (Bloody) Mary I** (a daughter of Henry VIII, reigned Catholic)
- **1558: Elizabeth I** ("Virgin Queen," charismatic political manoeuvrer)
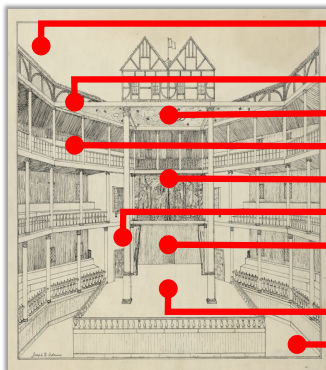
Early Seventeenth Century

- **1603: James I** (Stuart dynasty, reigned with heavy handedness)
- **1625: Charles I** (dethroned and beheaded in English Civil War)
- **1638:** *Cromwell* (Lord Protector for Life, presided over interregnum)
- **1660: Charles II** ("restored" to Throne, ending Protectorate)

William Caxton (ca. 1422 - ca. 1491)
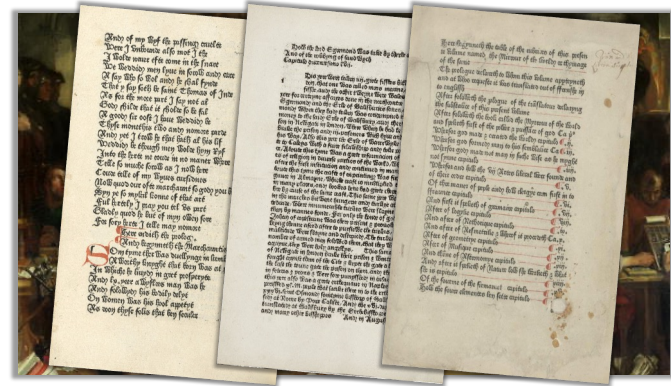
The Elizabethan Theatre

- open-air round or polygonal wooden building (100' x 36')
- thatched roof (later tiled)
- canopy (supported by pillars)
- tiered benches (3,000 spectators)
- "lords' room" (for aloft scenes)
- stage doors (for entrances, exits)
- central aperture (for sets)
- "tiring house" (dressing area)
- "thrust" stage (with palings)
- standing area (for "groundlings")

Some Sixteenth-Century Poetic Modes and Styles

- **Pastoral Mode (Theocritus, Virgil)**
  - pastoral songs
  - pastoral ecologues
  - pastoral funeral elegies
  - pastoral dramas
  - pastoral romances
- **Satirical Mode (Horace, Juvenal)**
  - epigrams
- **Tragic Mode (Seneca)**
  - complaint
  - heroical epistle

- **Mythological-Erotic Mode (Ovid)**
  - epyllion
- **Heroic Mode (Homer, Virgil)**
  - epic
- **Lyric Mode**
  - hymns
  - odes
  - epithalamium
  - songs
  - ballads
  - madrigals
  - sonnets

✎ The Early Seventeenth Century (1603-60)

- following the relative stability of the Elizabethan period, a period of political instability leading to Civil Wars, interregnum, Protectorate
- Civil Wars affected drama (closed theatres led to rise in "closet drama"), role of courtiers in producing poetry (shift to print culture)
- important poetic developments included Cavalier poetry, metaphysical poetry, *carpe diem* poetry; rise of the familiar essay as a new genre
- marked the beginnings of the "New Science," the empirical method, increased understanding of the universe and humankind's place in it
- James I commissioned a new English translation of the Bible, "the King James Version," which made scripture widely available to the masses
- Milton challenged religious orthodoxies with his hugely influential epic poem *Paradise Lost* (*NAEL* B849-79)

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