



# **OVERVIEW OF ENGLISH LITERATURE**

---

## 3. Poetry of the Renaissance

# TUDOR POETS

John Skelton

Sir Thomas Wyatt: ABBA ABBA  
CDDC EE

Henry Howard

Earl of Surrey ABAB, CDCD EFEF  
GG

blankverse

Tottel's Miscellany, 1557



PENGUIN CLASSICS

*Tottel's Miscellany:*

*Songs and Sonnets of Henry Howard, Earl of Surrey,  
Sir Thomas Wyatt and Others*

# ELIZABETHAN POETS

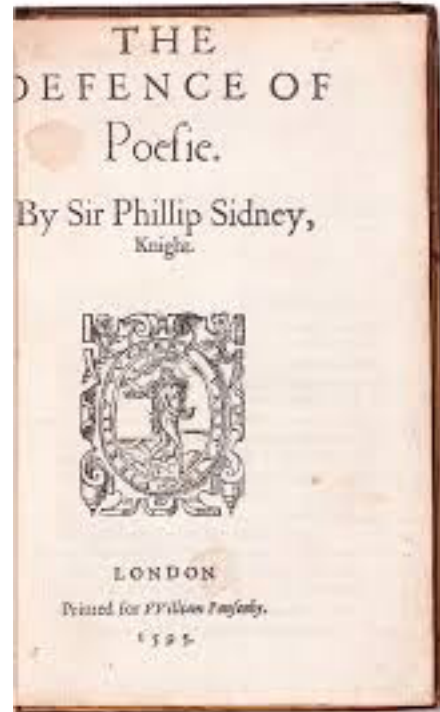
Influence of plato, platonism

Thomas More: utopia

Sir Philip Sidney: The Defense of  
Poesie, 1595

Arcadia

Astrophil and Stella, 1591



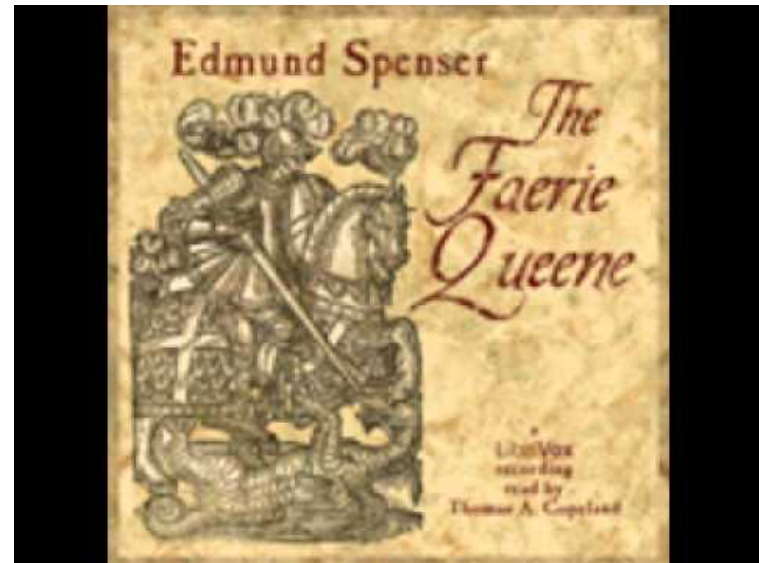
# ELIZABETHAN POETS

Edmund Spenser

Shepherdes Calender

Spencerian sonnet

The Faerie Queene



# Sir Walter Raleigh: The Nymph Reply to the Shepherd

Christopher Marlowe:

Passionate Shepherd to his Love

## The Passionate Shepherd to His Love By Christopher Marlowe

Come live with me and be my love,  
And we will all the pleasures prove  
That valleys, groves, hills, and fields,  
Woods, or steepy mountain yields.

And we will sit upon the rocks,  
Seeing the shepherds feed their flocks,  
By shallow rivers to whose falls  
Melodious birds sing madrigals.

And I will make thee beds of roses  
And a thousand fragrant posies;  
A cap of flowers, and a kirtle  
Embroidered all with leaves of myrtle.

A gown made of the finest wool  
Which from our pretty lambs we pull;  
Fair lined slippers for the cold,  
With buckles of the purest gold.

A belt of straw and ivy buds,  
With coral clasps and amber studs;  
And if these pleasures may thee move,  
Come live with me, and be my love.

The shepherd swains shall dance and sing  
For thy delight each May morning;  
If these delights thy mind may move,  
Then live with me and be my love.

## The Nymph's Reply to the Shepherd By Sir Walter Raleigh

If all the world and love were young,  
And truth in every shepherd's tongue,  
These pretty pleasures might me move  
To live with thee and be thy love.

Time drives the flocks from field to fold  
When rivers rage and rocks grow cold,  
And Philomel becometh dumb;  
The rest complains of cares to come.

The flowers do fade, and wanton fields  
To wayward winter reckoning yields;  
A honey tongue, a heart of gall,  
Is fancy's spring, but sorrow's fall.

Thy gowns, thy shoes, thy beds of roses,  
Thy cap, thy kirtle, and thy posies  
Soon break, soon wither, soon forgotten –  
In folly ripe, in reason rotten.

Thy belt of straw and ivy buds,  
Thy coral clasps and amber studs,  
All these in me no means can move  
To come to thee and be thy love.

But could youth last and love still breed,  
Had joys no date nor age no need,  
Then these delights my mind might move  
To live with thee and be thy love.

# WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE

## Sonnet Themes

- ❖ Shakespeare's sonnets can be broken down into three subcategories according to themes.
- ❖ Since it is not known who organized his sonnets, either Shakespeare grouped his sonnets purposely according to their themes or the publisher went through them, recognized the themes, and ordered them according to their relevance.
- ❖ Sonnets 1-17 have a common theme of procreating.
- ❖ Sonnets 1-126 are all addressed to a young man.
- ❖ Sonnets 127-154 share the theme of a dark lady.

18.

Shall I compare thee to a Summers day?  
Thou art more louely and more temperate:  
Rough windes do shake the darling buds of Maie,  
And Sommers lease hath all too short a date:  
Sometime too hot the eye of heauen shines,  
And often is his gold complexion dimm'd,  
And every faire from faire some-time declines,  
By chance, or natures changing course vntrim'd:  
But thy eternall Sommer shall not fade,  
Nor loose possession of that faire thou ow'st,  
Nor shall death brag thou wandr'st in his shade,  
When in eternall lines to time thou grow'st,  
So long as men can breath or eyes can see,  
So long liues this, and this giues life to thee,