

THE RENAISSANCE

1485-1660

The Ascension of the Tudor family marks the traditional beginning of the British Renaissance. During this period, writers reimagined stories from ancient Greece and Rome, often commenting on the politics and culture of their own time. The highlight of the British Renaissance is the Elizabethan era, during which William Shakespeare enjoyed the height of his career.

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highlights

1660

1642: Closure of the Theatres by Puritans

1564: Birth of Shakespeare

1558: Elizabeth I becomes queen until her death in 1603

1485: Henry VII crowned king of England

1485

REPRESENTATIVE LITERARY WORKS

Poems of Sir Thomas Wyatt (1503-1542)

The Book of Common Prayer, 1549

A Defence of Poesie, Sir Philip Sidney, before 1583

The Faerie Queene, Edmund Spenser, 1590, 1596

The Spanish Tragedy, Thomas Kyd, 1592

Doctor Faustus, Christopher Marlowe, 1592

“The Nymph’s Reply to the Shepherd,”
Sir Walter Raleigh, 1596

Hamlet, William Shakespeare, 1601

“An Anatomy of the World,” John Donne, 1611

The Tragedy of Mariam, Elizabeth Cary, 1613

The Duchess of Malfi, John Webster, 1614

The First Folio of Shakespeare’s Complete Works, 1623

Tis Pity She’s a Whore, John Ford, 1629-1633

Paradise Lost, John Milton, 1667

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