

# Medieval Literature

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## Field of Study Reading List

Note: where editions are not mentioned, the texts are widely available in anthologies or in various scholarly editions, among which the candidate may choose with guidance from supervisor or area experts. In addition to the primary texts, candidates are responsible for knowing the current critical contexts of those texts. Asterisked items must be part of any candidacy list modified from this one.

A student preparing this list for a field exam is expected to read all items in the original language. A student preparing this list for a minor field exam may read Old English and Early Middle English items in translation, but is also expected to read excerpts (to be set in consultation with supervisor and area experts) of the Old English and Early Middle English items in the original language; for a minor field exam, all Later Middle English items are to be read in the original language.

### Old English:

1. \**Beowulf*. Editions of Klaeber, Jack, or Mitchell and Robinson. Recommended translations are those of D. Howell Chickering and Roy Liuzza.
2. \**The Wanderer*
3. \**The Seafarer*
4. \**The Dream of the Rood*
5. At least four of the following: *Widsith*, *The Panther*, *The Whale*, *Deor*, *Wulf and Eadwacer*, *The Wife's Lament*, *The Husband's Message*, *The Ruin*, *The Battle of Brunanburh*

Exeter Book editions of Gollancz, Krapp and Dobbie, or Muir; anthologies; or Methuen individual editions of most of these poems.

6. Either *Judith* or *Juliana*.
7. \**The Battle of Maldon*
8. The *Anglo-Saxon Chronicle*, at least entries from 755 - 878.
9. \**Wulfstan, Sermo lupi ad anglos*
10. Aelfric: at least three homilies from the *Catholic Homilies* or at least three saints' lives from the *Lives of Saints* or a combination. Editions of Skeat for *Lives*, Godden for *Catholic Homilies*.
11. \*A selection of Aelfredian and Aelfrician prefaces, such as those anthologized in the Mitchell and Robinson *Guide to Old English*.

### Early Middle English:

1. *Ancrene Wisse*
2. *Hali Meidhad*
3. \**The Owl and the Nightingale*
4. *King Horn* or *Havelok*
5. *Sir Orfeo*

*The Vox and the Wolf*, *Dame Sirith*, and *Interludium de Clerico et Puella*

### Later Middle English:

1. \*Geoffrey Chaucer, *The Canterbury Tales* in *The Riverside Chaucer* ed. Benson et al.
2. \*Geoffrey Chaucer, *Troilus and Criseyde* in *The Riverside Chaucer* ed. Benson et al.
3. Geoffrey Chaucer, *The Book of the Duchess*, *The House of Fame*, and *The Parliament of Fowls*, in *The Riverside Chaucer* ed. Benson et al.
4. William Langland, *Piers Plowman*, ed. Schmidt
5. \**Sir Gawain and the Green Knight*, ed. Tolkien, Gordon and Davis; Andrew and Waldron; or Vantuono.
6. \**Pearl*, ed. Gordon or Vantuono.
7. Three of *Sir Launfal*, *Ywain and Gawain*, the alliterative *Morte Arthur*, the stanzaic *Morte Arthur*
8. \*Margery Kempe, *The Book of Margery Kempe*
9. Julian of Norwich, *A Revelation of Love*. Editions of Watson and Jenkins, Crampton, or Baker.
10. Richard Rolle *English Writings*.
11. *St. Erkenwald*.
12. At least twelve lyrics such as those from MS Harley 2253 or Cambridge University Library Ff. 1.6 (Findern MS)
13. \*Malory, *Le Morte D'Arthur* ed. Caxton (various modern-spelling editions available, such as Penguin) or *Works* ed. Vinaver
14. The Paston Letters.
15. \*The *Towneley Cycle* or the *York Cycle* of mystery plays.
16. *Everyman*, *Mankind* and *The Castle of Perseverance*.