

Literature Timeline	Literary Conventions of the Era	Key Vocabulary and Definitions
Classical Period 1200 BCE – 455 CE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Heroic Period 1200 – 800 BCE: features epic stories of heroes passed along orally. Homer is one of the most well known authors of the era, writing works such as <i>The Iliad</i> and <i>Odyssey</i>. • Classical Greek Period 800 – 200 BCE: Greek writers, playwrights and philosophers were prominent in this era, known as The Golden Age of Greece. Plato, Aristotle, Socrates, Sophocles and Aesop were some of the most well known authors. 	<p>- Theatrical performances dominate literature in this era. Comedy and Tragedy are the main genres, represented by the iconic masks: Thalia, the Muse of Comedy and Idyllic poetry is represented as a cheerful young woman crowned with ivy. Melopomene, the Muse of Tragedy, was depicted as her opposite, often holding the mask in one hand and a knife/club in the other.</p>
Patristic Period 70 BCE – 455 CE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Early Christian writings appear during this time. Preceding the fall of the Roman Empire, Saint Jerome first compiles the Bible (<i>Old and New Testament</i>) during this era. • Biblical stories begin to influence the writer's in the Medieval era as the popularity of Christianity spread throughout Europe. 	<p>- Christian writings in the bible take one of several forms. Psalms were religious songs/prayers. Parables and proverbs were short stories that, just like fables, contained moral messages. Poetic styles of the era are common throughout, especially in Genesis. The Bible's multiple stylistic choices could be explained by the diversity of its creation: each part was written by many authors and was re-written/translated many times again before it was formed into one conclusive version.</p>
Medieval Period 455 – 1485 CE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Old English (Anglo-Saxon) Period 428-1066 CE: Often referred to as the Dark Ages (455 – 799 CE), this period sees a real mix of influences from across Europe following the fall of the Roman Empire. As the Anglo Saxon era begins, some classic/epic stories begin to emerge such as <i>Beowulf</i> (circa 1000 CE) • The Middle English Period c.1066 – 1450 CE: Following the defeat of the Saxons in 1066, Norman culture spread throughout Britain under the rule of William I. Many French chivalric romances (dealing with themes of bravery and virtues) are prominent in this era. • Late/High Medieval Period c.1200 – 1485 CE: Throughout Europe, authors like Dante and Petrarch are famed for their contributions in this era. Back in Britain, Chaucer writes <i>The Canterbury Tales</i> and many other famous works. 	<p>- Whilst Christian values can still be seen in much of what is written in this era, there is more of a focus on the idea of 'noble' virtues: ideas that relate to heroism and chivalry. The Knight's Code is established in this era – the guiding values that a Knight must possess: generosity, courtesy, chastity, chivalry and piety. In addition to these values, knights/heroes were expected to possess great courage and honourable strength in their convictions.</p>

Year 7 Literature Through the Ages Knowledge Organiser

Oral tradition: Stories passed on through word of mouth, often by Bards through songs/poetry.

Epic poetry: Poetry that told full stories. Often delivered in oral tradition.

Philosophy: The study of knowledge, especially in relation to the idea of the reality of our existence.

Tragedy: Genre with generally negative outcomes for the central protagonist. Often philosophical in nature.

Religion: The name given to a spiritual belief system.

Symbolism: Ideas/objects in stories that represent something else.

Circa: Around the time period, usually showing that exact dates are unknown.

Morality: The idea of right and wrong.

Verse: Another name for a stanza in poetry. Refers to the text of a poem.

Context: The information surrounding a text, such as setting, time period, beliefs and significant events.

Imagery: Visually descriptive or figurative language in literature.

Analyse: To look in detail at a text and consider its purpose.

Protagonist: The central/main character in a story.

Catharsis: An outpouring of emotion, usually linked with a realisation by the protagonist.

Hubris: Feelings of extreme pride or self-confidence.

Hamartia: The tragic fatal flaw of a protagonist.