

ENGLISH LITERATURE 1625-1660

Historical context

- the Civil War 1642-1648
- the trial and execution of Charles I
- the Commonwealth 1649-53
- Oliver Cromwell's Protectorate 1653-1659

Social context

- the patriarchal family
- the reading public begins to expand
- theatres are closed in 1642
- the Royal Society is founded in 1660

Key concepts

- Civil War
- gender roles



Literary context

- plain style and neatness tend to dominate
- Metaphysical style on decline
- the scientific revolution contributes to the popularity of a clear and concise prose style
- the diary becomes a new genre

Key works

- *Vulgar Errors*
- *On the Morning of Christ's Nativity*
- *L'Allegro; Il Pensero*
- *Lycidas*
- *Hesperides*
- *To the Virgins, To make much of Time*
- *The Temple*
- *The Collar*
- *Musical Duel*
- *The Garden*
- *To His Coy Mistress*

Key figures

- Sir Thomas Browne
- Thomas Hobbes
- John Milton
- George Herbert
- Richard Lovelace
- Robert Herrick
- Andrew Marvell
- Richard Crashaw
- Abraham Cowley
- John Lilburne



Key terms

- Cavalier poets
- Puritanism
- Metaphysical poetry

