

Name \_\_\_\_\_

450–1100: **Old English** (Anglo-Saxon) – The language of Beowulf and Alfred the Great.  
**Beowulf**

1100–1500: **Middle English** – The language of Chaucer. The following is from the first sentence of the Prologue from **The Canterbury Tales** by Geoffrey Chaucer.

1500–1650: **Early Modern English (or Renaissance English)** – The language of **Shakespeare** and the King James Bible.

What do you think about the language of Shakespeare? What might make it hard to read? How will you work with the text to understand it?