Language and literature in the Middle Ages

the birth of English literature

literary output of **English ruling classes**

Anglo-Saxons

Beowulf
poem about a strong warrior who slays dragons and fights till death

Normans

King Arthur:
Celtic and Germanic legends about a real king summed up in ***Le Mort d'Arthur*** by Thomas Malory

end of the Middle Ages:
social and cultural **dynamism**

Geoffrey Chaucer
symbol of the emerging middle class

popular literature

folk **ballads**

celebration of **outlaws** who defied authorities

legend of **Robin Hood**