

## Sixteenth century English Poetry

The poetry of the **sixteenth century** defies facile generalizations. Although the same can obviously be said for the poetry of other periods as well, this elusiveness of categorization is particularly characteristic of the sixteenth century.

Reading Sixteenth-Century Poetry combines close readings of the chronological arrangement of dates that stand as marks in the history of English period of sixteenth century. The power of English state leads to the development of English language as well as to the most important movement in the period headed by the reformation.

- 1- Sixteenth Century witness a movement, that is generally known as the **Renaissance**, involved a rebirth of letters and arts stimulated by the recovery of texts and artifacts from classical antiquity, the development of techniques such as linear perspective, and the creation of powerful new aesthetic practices based on classical models. Renaissance starts in Italy, in the visual arts and architecture. English Renaissance always associates with human existence thus it is known as Renaissance Humanism. The struggle revolves around the superb human figure, the purposes of education and the focus on the formal language of writing.
- 2- Reformation is an ideological and institutional revolution in the religious life of England. In the space of a single lifetime, England had gone officially from Roman Catholicism, to Catholicism under the supreme headship of the English king, to a guarded Protestantism, to a more radical Protestantism, to a renewed and aggressive Roman Catholicism, and finally to Protestantism again. Each of these shifts was accompanied by danger, persecution, and death. It was enough to make people wary. Or skeptical. Or extremely agile.
- 3- In studying of sixteenth century one has to pay attention to the crucial relationship among writers, printers and patrons.
- 4- The study of the period involves of individual poems with a critical consideration of the historical context in which they were written. Informative and original, this book has been carefully designed to enable readers to understand, enjoy, and be inspired by sixteenth-century poetry.
- 5- Poems read within their historical context, with reference to five major cultural revolutions: Renaissance humanism, the Reformation, the modern nation-state, companionate marriage, and the scientific revolution.

- 6- Offers in-depth discussion of Skelton, Wyatt, Surrey, Philip Sidney, Spenser, Marlowe, Sidney, and Shakespeare.
- 7- Close reading of a wide variety of sixteenth-century poems, canonical and non-canonical, by men and by women, from print and manuscript culture, across the major literary modes and genres.