

BRITISH LITERATURE :  
SELECTIONS

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*Edited by*

MENKA AHLAWAT  
MEENU CHAUDHARY  
AVANTIKA POKHRIYAL  
HEMA SEN

*Meenu*  
*20/9/19*



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CONTACT

Publisher : worldview@vsnl.com | 011 41530268  
Editors: menkaahlawat26@gmail.com

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## PREFACE

*British Literature: Selections* is the labour of love of four friends which made the project that much easier and enjoyable. It never felt like a burden and there was also always a shoulder to lean onto.

Like all creative collaborations the book comes with its share of pitfalls one of which might be the difference in style of each of the four editors. Although care has been taken that there be structural uniformity each editor has a distinctive style which has been carefully preserved. Readers will hence be able to sample four distinct voices interacting with them and taking them through important landmarks in literary history.

As the title suggests, this book is not an omnibus rather a slim selection from the immense and ever expanding domain of English literature. The book is divided into two parts: poetry and short stories and the selections therein have been arranged chronologically. Each unit is preceded by an introductory note and the textual commentary has been consciously placed after the text so as to not influence the reader's interpretation. There are questions at the end of all units to encourage the reader to reflect on what they have just read. There is a clear emphasis on the historical background in which the text was composed and the readers are encouraged to engage with the text as a cultural artifact rather than a sacrosanct literary work. This explains why units are arranged chronologically and reading them thus will be most rewarding for first time learners as they will be able to better understand how each generation of writer interacts with the preceding one.

The editors would like to thank their families, and their colleagues at Mata Sundri College for providing an environment conducive to the project, as well as the publisher Mr. Sachin Rastogi for this wonderful opportunity and then patience as deadlines swished by.

We sincerely wish that readers, teachers and students alike, will find