The Genesis of Literature From Homer to Mos Def

POETRY

The original "lit" in every civilization EPIC SAGAS <u>e.g.</u> Greek Classics/Homer (*Iliad*, *Odyssey*, 8th/7th century BC) Sumerian/Babylonian poetry (*Gilgamesh*, 7th century BC) Anglo/Saxon tribes of England (*Beowulf*, 5th/6th century AD) Pre-Columbian Native America, pre-historic India, etc. FEATURES: Oral, communal, ritualistic FORM FOLLOWS FUNCTION: Literary devices (alliteration, rhyme, etc.) originate in oral/memorized poetic traditions, for recall/sharing

HISTORY chronicles

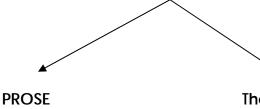
THEATER/DRAMA performed/staged stories

TIME FRAMES

Pre-historic "Classical" (Greco-Roman, 7th/6th century BC) Medieval

BRITISH: Old English (5th century AD to 12th century AD, *Beowulf, Everyman*) Middle English (Norman Invasion 1066 AD, Chaucer: *The Canterbury Tales*) THE PRINTING PRESS (1450 AD)

Early Modern English (16th century AD, Shakespeare, The Renaissance) 18th century (The British novel, Early American colonial writing)



Criticism Essays Journalism Letters **The NOVEL** Richardson Defoe Sterne Fielding

TIME FRAMES

19th/20th century Rise of Modernism mid-to-late 20th century Post-Modernism Spoken-Word, Performance Art->Poetry Slam, HBO Def Poets, Pop Lit, Bookstores