**Unit 2 Projects: The Medieval Period**

*FBCS 11-12 English Literature and Language Arts*

*Project 1: Ballad Composition*

Compose a ballad that imitates the structure and style of a medieval ballad. The final poem should be at least *four stanzas* (16 lines) in length and not more than six.

Definition: The popular *ballad* is a short narrative folk song which tells of a single (usually tragic) event in an objective, unbiased manner. The *ballad stanza* usually consists of four rhyming lines with four accented iambic syllables in lines one and three and three accented syllables in lines two and four.

The **wind** so **cold** blew **south** and **north**,

 And **blew** in**to** the **floor**;

Quoth **our** good**man** to **our** good**wife**,

 “Go **out** and **bar** the **door**.”

*Project 2: Medieval History Presentation*

Research some aspect of medieval history as it relates to our study of English literature from the period and present your findings to the class in a short PowerPoint or Prezi presentation. The presentation should be at least but no more than *3 minutes* long—which means it will need to be focused and precise. Don’t just reproduce information from class lectures or the text. Explore an interesting angle or tidbit.

Topic ideas:

* The Norman Conquest
* Anglo-French society
* French influence on the English language
* The feudal system
* Architecture—famous cathedrals, churches, castles, towers, and bridges.
* Ballads and carols—origins, performances, musical instruments
* Arthurian myths and legends
* *Sir Gawain and the Green Knight*
* Thomas Malory’s *Morte Darthur*
* Chaucer and *The Canterbury Tales*
* Medieval drama—mystery, miracle, and morality plays
* Wycliffe’s Bible

Recommended resources:

* Wikipedia (<https://en.wikipedia.org/>): photos, basic information, additional sources.
* JSTOR (<https://www.jstor.org/>): high-quality academic articles, primary sources.
* The British Library ([https://www.bl.uk/#](https://www.bl.uk/)): research, primary sources, digital collections.

Due Date: Both of these projects will be presented in class on the final day of the unit—**Friday, October 1, 2021.**