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**Course: ELS 140**

**Discuss the relationship between medieval drama and renaissance drama**

## **Medieval Drama**

The Middle Ages or the Medieval era lasted from 5<sup>th</sup> century to the 15th century. Therefore, the drama that belongs to this period is known as medieval drama. Medieval drama was therefore preceded by Greek and roman drama and followed by Elizabethan drama. Medieval drama arose from the ashes of roman drama just before it evolved into medieval drama, there was that level of infamy which entered it and which was vehemently opposed by the church. That was why some critics describe it as degenerate theatre and its disappearance during the barbaric invasions of the sixth century was the immediate aftermath of that degeneration.

The drama that emerged after the degeneration was the product of the church, born out of the desire to suppress certain infamous elements of past dramatic traditions, and out of the desire to fashion drama, dramaturgy and service along ecclesiastical lines for the propagation of the Christian faith.

The beginning of the medieval drama is, therefore, traceable to the medieval church sermon and mass which has some medieval characteristics. The human impulse to indulge in mimesis which receives impetus from the religious troupe gave birth to a new form of drama prevalent during the medieval drama.

The most famous examples of medieval drama are the English cycle dramas, the York Mystery Plays, the Chester Mystery Plays, the Wakefield Mystery Plays and the N-Town Play, as well as the morality play, Everyman.

## **Renaissance Drama**

The Renaissance was a cultural and artistic movement which bridges the gap between the middle ages and modern history. The English renaissance dates from the late 15th to the early 17th century. the introduction of the printing press was a major event in this period which lead to the flourish of literature.

Renaissance Literature was mainly influenced by the ideas of Renaissance art, politics, and religion; in addition, it was also heavily influenced by Greek and Roman literature. Drama and poetry were the most popular forms of renaissance literature.

## **Main Difference – Medieval vs Renaissance Drama**

Medieval era and renaissance era are two distinct periods in [history](#). There are distinct differences in the language, style and scope of drama during these two periods. **The drama in the medieval era was characterized by Christianity and chivalry whereas the literature in the Renaissance was greatly influenced by the progress of art and sciences and the emergence of humanism.** This is the **main difference** between Medieval and Renaissance drama.

## **Difference Between Medieval and Renaissance Literature**

### **Time Period**

**Medieval Literature** is the literature that belongs to the middle ages. (5<sup>th</sup> – 15<sup>th</sup> century)

**Renaissance Literature** is the literature from 15th to the early 17th century.

### **Language**

**Medieval Literature** was written in Old English and Middle English.

**Renaissance Literature** was written in early modern English.

### **Themes**

**Medieval Literature** was centered on concepts such as religion, chivalry, and courtly love.

**Renaissance Literature** involved religion, historical and social issues.

### **Religion**

**Medieval Literature** was centered on religious themes.

**Renaissance Literature** explored religion in a different approach.