

English 162
Fall 1992

<u>Events in England</u>	<u>Milton's Life</u>
1603 death of Elizabeth I	
	1608 born in London
1620 Puritans go to the New World	
1625 Death of James I	1625 attends Cambridge
Charles I becomes king	1638-9 Travels in Italy
	1638 "Lycidas"
	1640-60 Pamphlet Wars
1642 Civil War begins	
1649 Execution of Charles I	1652 Milton goes blind
1660 Restoration of the monarchy	
	1667 "Paradise Lost"
	1671 "Paradise Regained"
	"Samson Agonistes"
	1674 dies 8 November

MILTON 1608-1674

Donne 1572-1631

Shakespeare d. 1616

Jonson 1572-1637

Dryden 1631-1700

Pope 1688-1744

1. Is this a Renaissance poet? Why or why not?
2. What would you guess are the concerns/interests of this era? (As you read "Paradise Lost," consider how it reflects those interests.)
3. How might the history of the era reflect on Milton's representation of heroism? Of justice?
4. Milton might be read as highly conservative in many of his representations. (Women, for example, do not fair well). However, in the pamphlet wars, he supported freedom of the press, the right (for men) to divorce, and freedom of speech. What political implications might we be on the lookout for in reading Milton? How can we read this author critically?