

Title: The Literary History of LGBT+
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Literature during the Middle Ages is rich in LGBT+ ideas and history, although it often overlooked in literary curricula. This research paper begins with classic Greek philosophy and explores the cultural concept of LGBT+ in ancient Greece through analysis of Plato's "Symposium." This text reveals the idea that homosexuality and gender fluidity are part of man's nature and were bestowed upon them by Zeus himself. This accepting perspective of LGBT+ shifts when the Anglo-Saxons rise. The epic "Beowulf" reveals a period of history in which gender roles and misogyny were strictly set concepts which helped cultivate and establish heteronormativity and male aggression for all those to succeed their culture.

The French experimented with challenging the controversy of LGBT+. In Marie de France's "Lanval," the main character, Lanval, is challenged to go against the expectations that are assigned to him by his gender. He must maneuver through Queen Guinevere's accusations and slurs regarding Lanval's sexuality, as well as the misogynistic society in which he is trapped in and is expected to act immorally in order to be socially accepted. Concepts such as gender identification being a result of nurture are explored in Hildris of Cornwall's "Silence." The main character, Silence, is given a gender-neutral name by their parents and battles with personified Nature and Nurture as they explore how one can identify oneself through their internal and external experiences. Throughout history, the LGBT+ community has been prevalent in literature and has enforced the idea that it is a natural concept.

Works Cited

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