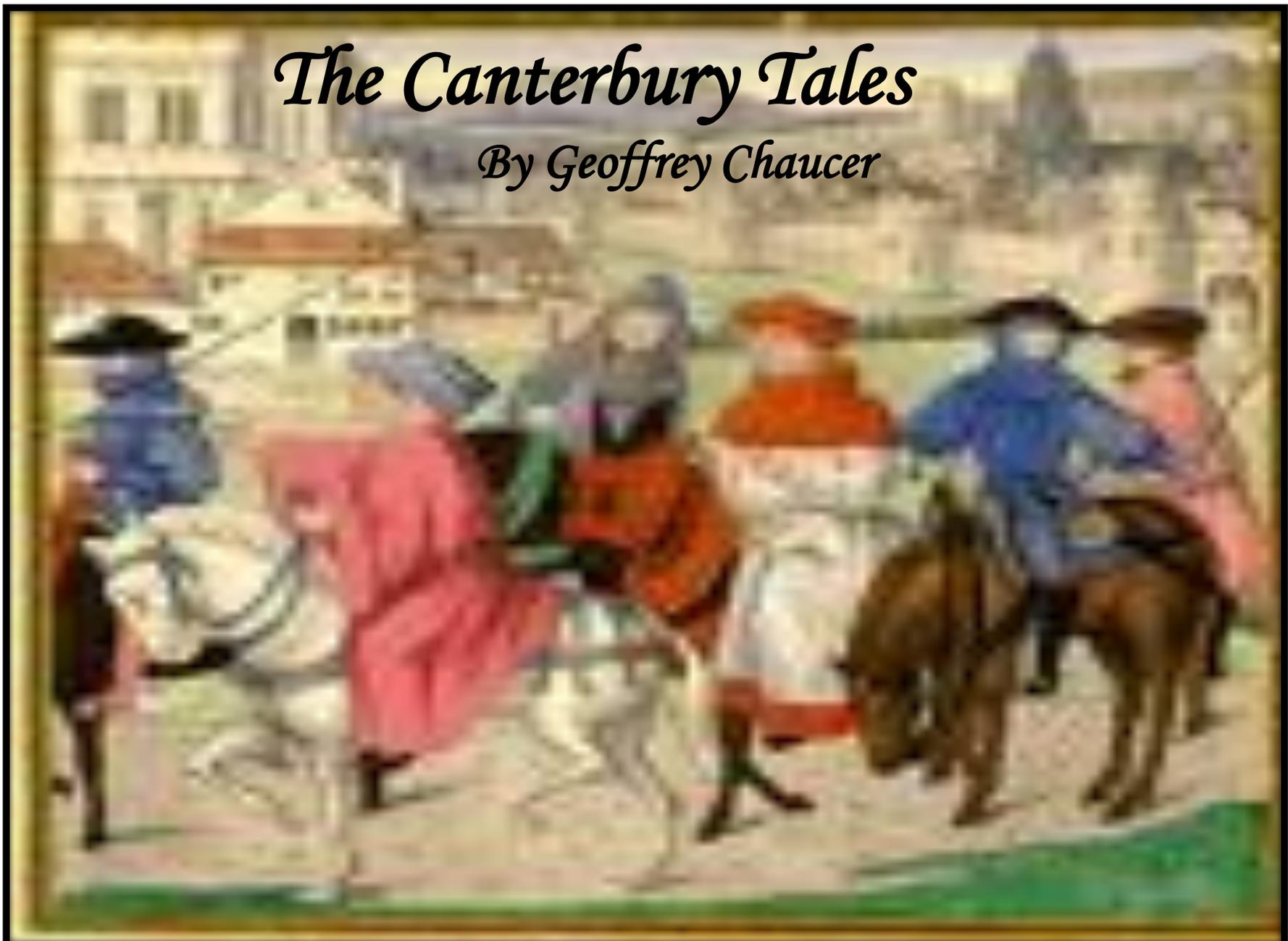


The Canterbury Tales

By Geoffrey Chaucer



WHO?

29 pilgrims plus Geoffrey Chaucer (Narrator) and the Host (31 total)

Cross-section of Medieval Society

Ruling Class

➤ *Knight, Squire*

Clergy Class

➤ *Monk, Friar, Prioress, Parson,
Summoner, Pardoner*

Middle Class

*Merchant, Reeve, Franklin, Doctor, Oxford Student (Clerk),
Wife of Bath, Sergeant-at-law*

Trade Class

Guildsmen, Cook, Manciple

Peasant Class

Miller, Plowman, Skipper, Yeoman, Host

Tour Group: Pilgrims

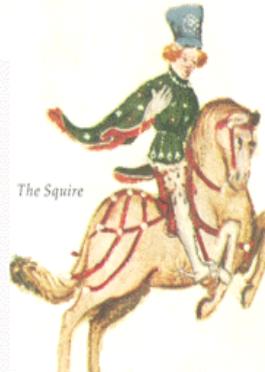
KNIGHT:

- Chivalrous
- Battle-worn (mostly religious crusades)
- Champion joustier (killed his opponent three times)
- Wise, true, gentle, modest



SQUIRE:

- A knight in training
- Son of the KNIGHT
- single,
- 20 years old
- Member of the cavalry
- Musical, artistic, poet/writer, dancer, joustier
- Lover



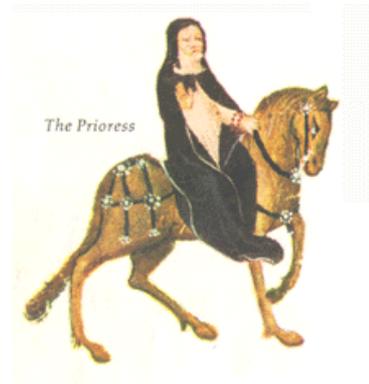
YEOMAN:

- Servant of the KNIGHT
- Carried bows, arrows and other equipment
- Rugged appearance
- Wore a St. Christopher medal



PRIORESS:

- *A nun; Priory Head just below an Abbess*
- *Madame Eglantine*
- *Refined, elegant, pretentious*
- *Loved her small dogs*
- *More interested in appearing cultured than religious*
- *Wore a brooch saying, "Omnia Vincit Amour (Love Conquers All)"*



The Prioress

MONK:

- *Took vows of chastity, poverty and obedience*
- *Loved hunting*
- *Owned greyhounds*
- *Disobeyed his vows*
- *Flashy dresser*
- *Large in stature*



The Monk
and his
greyhound

FRIAR:

- *Hubert*
- *Lisped*
- *Violated vows of poverty and simplicity*
- *Seduced young women*
- *Hated dealing with lowest classes*
- *Jolly; bald*



The Friar

MERCHANT:

- *Bought, sold and traded goods*
- *Egotistical, pompous*
- *In debt; kept business financials to himself*
- *Expert at selling money on the Exchange*
- *More interested in appearance than honesty*



OXFORD STUDENT (CLERIC):

- *Religious scholar, student*
- *Very poor*
- *Studied philosophy*
- *Spent any money he got on books*
- *Orated on moral virtue*



SERGEANT-AT-LAW (Lawyer):

- *Never took a case he couldn't win*
- *Specialty: deeds*
- *Appeared busier than he was*
- *Wore a multi-colored coat*



HABERDASHER, CARPENTER, WEAVER, DYER, TAPESTRY-MAKER (GUILDSMEN):

- *owned goods, money*
- *Possessed reliable tools/equipment*
- *True to how they appeared; unpretentious*

FRANKLIN:

- *Property-holder*
- *Not of noble birth*
- *Lived for pleasure (food and drink)*

COOK:

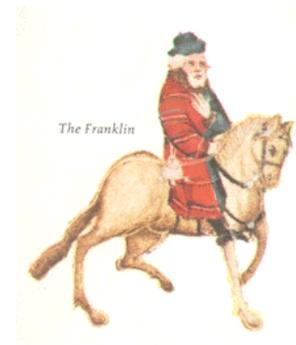
- *Boastful about his cooking prowess*
- *Said that he could cook anything and make it tasty*
- *Crude in manner*
- *Generally slovenly*
- *Had an ulcerated, open sore on his shin*

SKIPPER (SEAMAN):

- *Good navigator of the seas*
- *Owned a ship: Magdalen*
- *Unscrupulous*
- *Loved wine*

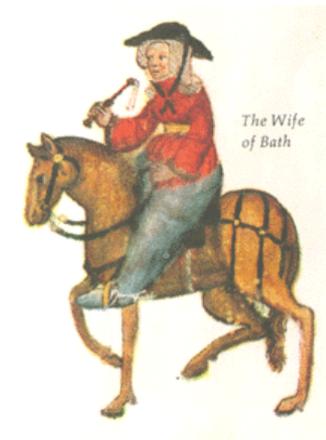
DOCTOR:

- *Not at all religious*
- *Could identify and cure all manner of diseases*
- *Miserly with his money*
- *Loved gold*



WIFE of BATH:

- *From the town of Bath*
- *Deaf*
- *Always the first to give money at church*
- *Vain, childish, needed attention*
- *Married five times; liked to attract men*
- *Had been on three pilgrimages to Jerusalem (more to find husbands than for religious reasons).*



PRIEST (PARSON):

- *Sincerely religious*
- *Humble*
- *Lived for Christian service*
- *Practiced what he preached*
- *Gave to the poor before giving to himself*



PLOWMAN:

- *Brother of the Parson*
- *Honest; hardworking*
- *Loved God above all*
- *Loved his neighbor as himself*
- *Poor, but Charitable*



MILLER:

- *Huge, homely and strong*
- *Milled, grinded grain*
- *Vulgar*
- *Stole grain*
- *Played bagpipes*



MANCIPLÉ:

- *Purchased provisions for law students*
- *Undereducated*
- *Stole money from the law students*



REEVE:

- *A manager of workers on an estate*
- *From Norfolk*
- *Keeper of his liege's livestock*
- *Shrewder than the Lord of the Manor at negotiating prices*
- *Never behind on any type of payments*



SUMMONER:

- *Caught and fined those violating Church law*
- *Pocketed some of the money*
- *Physically repulsive*
- *Oozing sores on his skin*
- *Seduced young women in the Church*
- *Orated on not fearing excommunication*
- *Drank heavily; spouted Latin phrases when drunk*



PARDONER:

- *Raised money for the Church*
- *Sold Papal indulgences to sinners*
- *Sold fake religious relics as real*
- *Well-read in Church lessons and parables*
- *Sang and preached to make money*



The HOST (HARRY BAILLY):

- *Bartender and keeper of the Tabard Inn*
- *Boasted about serving the "best food and drink."*
- *Mastermind of the story-telling challenge on the pilgrimage to Canterbury*
- *Jovial, good-hearted*

GEOFFREY CHAUCER

- *Born in London*
- *1343-1400*
- *Author, poet, bureaucrat, courtier, diplomat.*
- *Satirist*
- *Thought by many to be the “Father of Modern English”*
- *Adapted pilgrims from people he encountered in his life.*
- *Many plots, adapted from other literature.*
- *The Canterbury Tales offers a cross-section of life/people in the Middle Ages.*
- *Knew that his job as a traveling poet, or scop, was to entertain and to deliver the news from one town to another.*
- *A poet’s viewpoint was considered less than that of the Clergy class.*
- *As a pilgrim, Chaucer could be the eyes for his readers.*
- *Wrote in Rhyme Royal:*
 - *5-stress line (decasyllabic)*
 - *Meter cousin to iambic pentameter*
 - *Rhyming couplets*

Thanks to Wikipedia.com for some of the information.



WHAT? WHERE? WHY?

- *All Inclusive Spring Tour* originating at *The Tabard Inn* in London.
- *Concluding at The Canterbury Cathedral* in the city of Canterbury
- *Purpose: to visit the cathedral to pay homage to the holy martyr, St. Thomas Becket at his shrine.*
- *Entertainment: each guest will tell two tales on the way to Canterbury and two tales on the way back,*
- *The winner will win a fine meal provided by Host, Harry Bailly, manager of the Tabard Inn.*



wpcontent.answers.com/wikipedia/commons



evergreen.loyola.edu



english2eso.files.wordpress.com

WHEN?

From the General Prologue of The Canterbury Tales

When April with his showers sweet with fruit 1
The drought of March has pierced unto the root 2
And bathed each vein with liquor that has power 3
To generate therein and sire the flower; 4
When Zephyr also has, with his sweet breath, 5
Quickened again, in every holt and heath, 6
The tender shoots and buds, and the young sun 7
Into the Ram one half his course has run, 8
And many little birds make melody 9
That sleep through all the night with open eye 10
(So Nature pricketh them on to ramp and rage)- 11
Then do folk long to go on pilgrimage, 12
And palmers to go seeking out strange strands, 13
To distant shrines well known in sundry lands. 14

<http://www.fordham.edu/halsall/source/ct-prolog-para.html>

1. *April Showers*
- 2-4. *March drought has ended ; rain is helping the growth of spring flowers, plants, etc.*
5. *Zephyr: Greek god of the West Wind and of Spring.*
7. *Ram (ARIES): Zodiac sign for March 21st- April 20th*
9. *Birds are singing now that winter has past.*
- 12-14 *People like to go on pilgrimages in the spring.*



Literary Genres

Allegory

Using figurative language to show/represent an abstract idea or spiritual concept.

Dramatic; pictorial

Symbolic narrative; implies a comparison of traits

A fictitious representation; i.e. "peace and victory shown as women; Animal Farm showing a communist state.

Exemplum:

An anecdote (short narrative) given to prove a point or illustrate a moral concept.

Exemplum=example

Used by medieval preachers

Fable

Animals or inanimate objects represent human characters

Short

Teaches a moral lesson

Fabliau/fabliaux

Short story

Sometimes in verse form (using rhyming pentameters)

Coarse, earthy, bawdy

Sexual intrigue or obscene pranks are often central to the plots

Often satirized the clergy class

Lai

Story in song

Lais means voice

Several stanzas-no consistency in form

No repeating sections (like ballads)

Tales of love, daring deeds, chivalry, knights and their ladies

Courtly Romance

Originally referred to stories told in Romanz-(vernacular French, Spanish, Italian and Portuguese)=romance languages

Latin= real language

Chivalric adventures of knights and their ladies (often King Arthur's court: Arthurian literature)

Audience-largely royal women

Often knight subservient and obedient to women; did not correspond to the reality of the times.

The Canterbury Tales Prologue Worksheet

Directions: Each student will be assigned two pilgrims to study in full.

Part 1: Copy the information on this sheet into your notebook, leaving room under each heading for notes from this PowerPoint and from reading the different character descriptions in the Prologue.

Part 2: Pick a modern day counterpart for each of the two pilgrims and fill in the needed information.

Part 1: Then: 14th Century

Character _____ Profession _____

Personality qualities that make person suitable to that profession:

Place in Medieval class system _____

References to qualities suitable or unsuitable to members of that class:

Physical characteristics:

Do physical features match character's profession and class? explain

Clothing?

Is clothing matched to profession and class? Explain

Activities or interests:

Prized Possessions:

Chaucer's attitude toward Pilgrim:

Part 2: Now- 20th Century

Profession/Career _____

Name _____ -

Modern Appearance(Physical characteristics and dress):

Mode of Transportation _____

Entertainment or hobbies:

Pilgrimage to _____

Status in society _____

The Canterbury Tales “Prologue” Writing Assignment

100 points

Geoffrey Chaucer described his pilgrims in rhymed couplets of iambic pentameter. In this assignment you will accurately describe yourself, imitating Chaucer’s style, meter, and rhyme scheme. I will read these out loud to see if your classmates can identify you by your candid and eloquent description. A sample follows at the bottom of the page; see if you can identify the subject! Due Date: The next class period

Grading Criteria:

Typed and double spaced

In your title identify your pilgrim (yourself) through an occupation or avocation

Sixteen lines minimum

Rhymed couplets of iambic pentameter (Proofread aloud so you can hear the meter.)

Creative and honest depiction

Sample:

The English Teacher

With them was a teacher of English;
And good grammar in essays was her wish.
She was not too tall: stood at five foot four
And looked quite kind, but could roar like a boar.
She wore flowy tops and jewelry galore;
Proofreading essays was rarely a bore.
In the summertime she loved to write;
Finding time to create was always her plight.
She was often seen with other teachers,
Or in the hallways with teenage creatures.
She wore mostly flat shoes, rarely high heels.
At her desk she ate her brown-bagged meals
Her room was adorned with *Terrible Towels*
When the Steelers lost she was known to howl.
Her forty-one year mate was a man named Tim;
Smiling, white-haired and long in the limbs.

Part 2: Write the letter of the correct description on the right in the square by the pilgrim's name on the left.

Matching

- | | |
|-----------------------|--|
| _____ 1. miller | a. disliked the Church's rules |
| _____ 2. skipper | b. preferred books over clothes |
| _____ 3. prioress | c. helps himself to the cargo he transports |
| _____ 4. friar | d. had a pillowcase full of religious relics |
| _____ 5. monk | e. an in-debt businessman |
| _____ 6. squire | f. chivalrous |
| _____ 7. knight | g. loved to tell earthy, dirty stories |
| _____ 8. Wife of Bath | h. a "beggar" named Hubert |
| _____ 9. clerk | i. practiced astrology; loved gold |
| _____ 10. doctor | j. Madame Eglantine |
| _____ 11. Pardoner | k. stole from law students |
| _____ 12. Manciple | l. a lover, not a fighter |
| _____ 13. Merchant | m. gaped-toothed; married numerous times |

Part 3: Answer the following questions in complete sentences.

Short Answer (2 pts)

Explain the Host's challenge to all of the pilgrims. What is each to do? What is the prize?

The Canterbury Tales Prologue Quiz Answer Key

Part 1: Multiple Choice

1. b
2. b
3. c
4. a
5. b
6. a
7. b
8. b
9. b
10. a
11. c
12. b
13. c
14. b

Part 2: Matching

1. g
2. c
3. j
4. a
5. h
6. l
7. f
8. m
9. b
10. i
11. d
12. k
13. e

Part 3: Short Answer

Students answers should contain the following information:

The Host challenges each of the pilgrims to tell four stories: two on the way to Canterbury and two on the return trip home. The one who tells the best story (the Host will be the judge) will win a fabulous meal from the Tabard Inn.