

Canterbury Tales



Geoffrey Chaucer

The Canterbury Tales: Geoffrey Chaucer



- ☞ Chaucer was born in London in the early 1340s
- ☞ English poet

The Canterbury Tales: The Language



- Written in Middle English in the late 1300s
- Chaucer wrote in the vernacular, the English that was spoken in and around London in his day.



Life in the Middle Ages: Historical & Cultural Background



1. Health: **Black Death**
2. History & Politics: **Hundred Years War**
3. Religion: **Sale of Indulgences and Church Relics**

Life in the Middle Ages: Morality & Societal Standards



1. Code of Conduct: **Chivalry**
2. Men of Honor: **Knights**
3. Approach to Romance: **Courtly Love**

The Canterbury Tales: “The Prologue”



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- ☞ Pilgrimage to Canterbury (religious journey)
 - ☞ Tabard Inn
 - ☞ Contest for a free meal

“The Prologue” Characters



☞ Knight

☞ Squire

☞ Yeoman

☞ Prioress

☞ Monk

☞ Friar

☞ Merchant

☞ Oxford Cleric (clerk)

☞ Serjeant at Law

☞ Franklin

☞ 5 Tradesmen

☞ Haberdasher

☞ Dyer

☞ Carpenter

☞ Weaver

☞ Carpet-maker

☞ Cook

☞ Skipper

☞ Doctor

☞ Woman of Bath

☞ Parson

☞ Plowman

☞ Miller

☞ Manciple

☞ Reeve

☞ Summoner

☞ Pardoner

- TURN TO “THE PROLOGUE”
- READ PAGES 1-5, THEN SKIM
- HIGHLIGHT EACH CHARACTER