

# “The Knight’s Tale”



Background

Characters

Setting

Part 1

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## Background

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- ❧ The story of Theseus and Hippolyta was well known in Chaucer’s day.
- ❧ Chaucer sets his version of the story in Ancient Greece, while maintaining the social structure of Medieval England.
- ❧ “The Knight’s Tale” is not actually about Theseus and Hippolyta, although they appear in the story.
- ❧ It is about two of Theseus’ war prisoners: Palamon and Arcite.

# “The Knight’s Tale”

## Setting & Characters



### Athens

∞ Theseus (ruler, conquers Thebes)

### Thebes

∞ Creon (defeated king)

∞ Hippolyta (defeated queen)

∞ Emily (sister of Hippolyta)

∞ Palamon

∞ Arcite

# “The Knight’s Tale”

## Part 1: Plot Background



- ❧ Theseus defeats Creon
- ❧ Theseus takes Hippolyta as his Queen and returns to Athens
- ❧ Emily is the sister of Hippolyta. She is brought to Athens also
- ❧ Palamon & Arcite are cousins and knights from Thebes
- ❧ Theseus brings them to Athens as prisoners
- ❧ They are locked up in a tower