

Group Member Names:Kelsie Fernsler, Madi Yoder, Madie Forell, Levi Cherry, Jake Kossa

English Literature - Analytical Literature Review

TITLE: The Canterbury Tales

AUTHOR: Geoffrey Chaucer

<p>Historical context - One of the first vernacular novels written in English. Technically never actually finished by Chaucer. In the Middle Ages, pilgrimage was a social as well as a religious event and the only time when people from differing social classes could mingle together.</p>		
<p>Setting - A pilgrimage to the shrine of Saint Thomas Becket at Canterbury, England. Many different stories are told throughout the journey ranging from courtly romance, Breton Lay, fabliaux, saint's legend, tragedy, exemplum and sermon to a beast fable. Chaucer uses a realistic setting instead of an idealistic one, thus imparting an air of authenticity to the tales and their tellers.</p>	<p>Author Biography - Chaucer was born in London in the early 1340s, the only son in his family. Chaucer's father, originally a property-owning wine merchant, became very wealthy when he inherited the property of relatives who had died in the Black Death of 1349. The young Geoffrey was sent off as a page to the Countess of Ulster. Eventually, Chaucer began to serve the countess's husband, Prince Lionel, son to King Edward III. For most of his life, Chaucer served in the Hundred Years War between England and France, both as a soldier and, since he was fluent in French and Italian and conversant in Latin and other tongues, as a diplomat. In or around 1378, Chaucer began to develop his vision of an English poetry that would be linguistically accessible to all—obedient neither to the court, whose official language was French, nor to the Church, whose official language was Latin. Instead, Chaucer wrote in the vernacular, the English that was spoken in and around London in his day. Undoubtedly, he was influenced by the writings of the Florentine Dante.</p>	
<p>Inciting Incident -</p>	<p>Internal Conflict -</p> <p>Conflicts with Church and gender roles throughout the story.</p>	<p>External Conflict-</p>
<p>Symbolism - Springtime, symbolizing rebirth and fresh beginnings. Clothing, symbolizes the characters personalities. Physiognomy, a person's temperament based on his or her anatomy.</p>	<p>Tone - Irony is frequently used in The Canterbury tales.</p>	

Characterization -

Wife of Bath - A well traveled woman with a lot of experience ;)

The Pardoner - One of the most marginalized character in the story

The Knight - Admired by most of the company, including the narrator.

Figurative language and literary devices -Allusions are used, as the most famous example, he speaks of the Wife of Bath and her appearance. He relates her appearance to the fact that she has been married five times and craves sex. The allusion is that she is gap toothed and that is a sign of being over sexed or craving sex.

-This poem was an estate satire and poked fun at the 3 classes

- Chaucer writes in Iambic Pentameter sometimes as well

Universal application -

In this time period it is important to understand that Chaucer, and the rest of the country were struggling with differences in social classes, gender roles, and the the church. Chaucer brings all of these issues up in his text in order to shed light on them through other characters.