

Chaucer's Canterbury Tales Prologue Characters

Let's begin reading the Prologue of *Canterbury Tales*. This is not a difficult read; it just takes time. As you read a section of the poem, stop and figure out what the author is saying. If you have read something and you don't understand, stop and reread. Your mind needs to be concentrating on what you are reading, not on how "stupid this is" or your homework for the next class. Do your best! **This is a worksheet to guide you as you read.** You will receive a grade based on completeness and thoroughness.

Background Questions

1. What is the rhyme pattern in the prologue?
2. What is the subject of this poem? That is, what are these people planning to do? (lines 1-18)
3. What time of year is it? Why is this significant?
4. Where does the story begin (line 20)?
5. How many people are going? (line 24)
6. What is Chaucer going to tell us about each character?

This story is a great example of characterization. The narrator/host is going to start describing the people going on the pilgrimage in line 35. Keep track of each character, description, and what the narrator believes about each character. This is like people watching and/or analyzing people. Too fun, right? HA! Which characters does he believe to be true and honest and which are corrupt? You need to be very specific. Writing one or two things is not thorough and will not get you full points or help you for other worksheets or quizzes.

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1. Knight-

2. Squire-

3. Yeoman-

4. Prioress Nun-

5-8 Another nun and three priests. Nothing to write here.

9. Monk-

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10. Friar-

11. Merchant-

12. Oxford Cleric-

13. Sergeant at the Law-

14. Franklin-

15-19. Haberdasher, Dyer, Carpenter, Weaver, and Carpet Maker-

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20. Cook-

21. Skipper-

22. Doctor-

This is as far as you need to get; if you have time, keep working, please, or read from your novel. Please do ALL characters

23. Woman of Bath-

24. Parson-

25. Plowman-

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26. Miller-

27. Manciple

28. Reeve

29. Summoner

30. Pardoner

31. Host

What contest is everyone going to participate in, what are the requirements, what is the winning prize, what happens if you don't participate?