

Learning Organiser for Yr8 Chaucer: What are the challenges of our world?



What am I going to learn?

What is a pilgrimage?

What is The Canterbury Tales and who was Chaucer?

How has the English language changed?

How are comedies structured?

What techniques are used to create humour?

How does Chaucer subvert gender roles to create humour?

Social and Historical Context

Pilgrim

A person who journeys to a sacred place for religious reasons.

Pilgrimage

A pilgrimage is a journey, often into an unknown or foreign place, where a person goes in search of new or expanded meaning about the self, others, nature, or a higher good, through the experience. It can lead to a personal transformation, after which the pilgrim returns to their daily life.

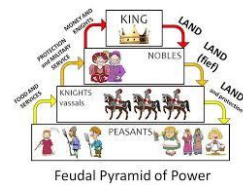


The Canterbury Tales

The Canterbury Tales is a **frame narrative**, or a story told around another story or stories. The frame of the story opens with a gathering of people at the Tabard Inn in London who are preparing for their journey to the shrine of St. Becket in Canterbury. This is a yearly occurrence, and Chaucer is among the people preparing for the journey. The Host of the inn suggests that they all take turns telling a tale as they travel. Whoever tells the best tale, to be judged by the Host, will receive a free meal upon their return.

In total, there are 24 tales. It's possible that Chaucer never finished the work since the prologue lists people who made the journey but did not tell a tale. The tales include lessons on morality, human struggles, and more humorous fare. Many are tales of spite directed at the other individuals.

Social and Historical Context



In Medieval times, Britain was structured under the Feudal System. See diagram on the left.

Who was Geoffrey Chaucer?

Geoffrey Chaucer (c. 1343–25 October 1400) was an English writer, poet, and philosopher. He is most famous for writing *Canterbury Tales* which had 24 stories but was not completed. He was one of the first writers to write in English.

Types of Comedy

Comedy of Manners

Comedy of manners is a play, which deals with the upper class of the society and their manners

Comedy of Errors

It is a comedy, wherein the author dwells upon errors on the part of characters. Every character is not aware of what is going on. Mostly, the error occurred due to mistaken identity and other means.

Comedy of Intrigue

A Comedy of intrigue features characters who are trying to outwit each other in a complex web of lies and deception

Comedy of Humours

Comedy of humours is amongst special types of comedy, wherein the author dwells upon a certain trait of a character. Humour means a specific trait of a character, e.g., greed, pride

Farce

A comic dramatic work using buffoonery and horseplay and typically including crude characterization and ludicrously improbable situations.

Slapstick

A type of humorous acting in which the actors behave in a silly way, such as by throwing things, falling over, etc.

Comedy Techniques

Innuendo

The making of a remark or remarks that suggest something sexual or something unpleasant but do not refer to it directly.

Pun

A joke exploiting the different possible meanings of a word or the fact that there are words which sound alike but have different meanings.

Sarcasm

Sarcasm is speech or writing which actually means the opposite of what it seems to say. *Sarcasm* is usually intended to mock or insult someone.

Bathos

An anti-climax or the sudden change from a very formal discussion/event to a very silly or rude one.

Irony

An event in which what appears, on the surface, to be the case, differs radically from what is actually the case.

The Fool

The fool, also called the Jester, a comic entertainer whose madness or imbecility, real or pretended, made him a source of amusement.

Witty Banter

The playful and friendly exchange of teasing remarks.