

Learning Organiser for Year 8 Chaucer

What am I going to learn?

What was life like in Medieval times?

What are The Canterbury Tales and who was Chaucer?

How has the English language changed?

How are letters structured?

What techniques are used to create effective transactional writing?

How does Chaucer present women?

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. The tales include lessons on morality, human struggles, and more humorous fare.

Patriarchal Society

A patriarchal society is where men control all aspects of life, including women. Women were expected to follow a man's rule unquestioningly.

Social and Historical Context

In Medieval times, Britain was structured under the [Feudal System](#).

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.

Letter Writing Skills:

Your opening must:

- Address the reader
- Engage the reader with an engaging opening line
- Set out why you are writing (Avoid: I am writing too...)
- Include persuasive devices

Your Main body must:

- Have clear reasons to support your argument
- Have expert views
- Include DAFOREST techniques
- Variety of sentence lengths
- Variety of sentence starters

Your effective ending must:

- Have a call to action- what do you want your reader to do?
- Link to your opening.
- Include persuasive devices

There are 3 types of letter:

- Formal
- Informal
- Letter to the Editor

(This type of letter is written to a newspaper so is like an article)

Techniques

Direct Address- Use the pronoun you to speak to the reader.

Alliteration- Begin words with the same letter to draw emphasis.

Facts- include numbers, dates, places etc...

Opinions- Include the viewpoint of the writer.

Rhetorical Question- Use questions for effect to make the reader consider the answer.

Repetition- repeat a word or phrase for effect.

Emotive Language- choose vocabulary and phrases to have an emotional impact on the reader.

Statistics- use percentages and fractions.

Triples- include ideas, adjectives and items in a list in groups of 3.