

Geoffrey Chaucer's The Canterbury Tales

(A Workshop for KS3 Students)

Introduction

The Chaucer Heritage Trust was founded in 1992 and aims to further interest, understanding and appreciation of the works of Geoffrey Chaucer, his life and times and influence. This year the Trust is holding The Canterbury Tales Writing Competition for school students around the country. To complement the competition the trust is organising free workshops for schools.

Structure and Activities

Workshops last one hour. They will first introduce the author Geoffrey Chaucer and place him within his historical and literary context. They will then introduce The Canterbury Tales and students will explore its content, structure and language. Students will then work in groups to re-write passages in their own words. These will be presented to class who can ask questions about their passages. Finally, students will be introduced to the competition and have the opportunity to discuss their initial ideas for entries.

Outcomes will include

- Students will practise close reading and textual analysis
- Students will practise team-work and project management
- Students will develop skills in creative writing
- Students will practise presentation skills
- Students will learn about Geoffrey Chaucer and his importance in world literature
- Students will learn about literary culture in medieval Europe
- Students will learn about the importance of pilgrimage in medieval society
- Students will learn about the development of the English language

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