

Chaucer in Context

(A Lecture/Workshop for KS5 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

The Lecture/Workshop lasts one hour and is designed to provide A Level students with an introduction to the historical, literary and linguistic context of Chaucer's The Canterbury Tales. Workshops begin with a lecture presentation which will explore Geoffrey Chaucer's life and times and the historical contexts of some of the recurrent themes in The Canterbury Tales. Students will then be given passages from The Canterbury Tales (which can be chosen to meet the requirements of schools) to read and discuss in small groups. This will be followed by an assembly discussion of their findings. Finally, students will be introduced to the competition and have the opportunity to discuss their initial ideas for entries.

Outcomes will include

- Students will be introduced to the historical, literary and linguistic contexts of Geoffrey Chaucer's writing
- Students will gain an appreciation of some of the thematic contexts of Chaucer's The Canterbury Tales
- Students will be introduced to the importance of inter-disciplinary approaches to scholarship
- Students will practise close reading and textual analysis
- Students will practise team-work and project management
- Students will have the opportunity to practise presentation skills

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