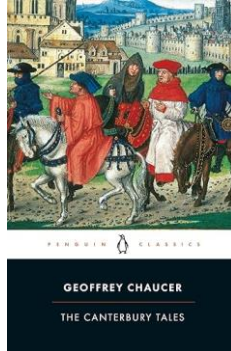


Providence Classical School

11th grade Rhetoric Summer Reading Assignment

The Canterbury Tales by Geoffrey Chaucer



[Here is a link to the book on Amazon](#) or sign one out from Mrs. Smole's room

Assignment:

Read the following excerpts from *The Canterbury Tales*, create a reading journal, and write the essay.

Due Dates: Essay due Aug 3. Email to ismole@pcsvirginia.org

Reading Journal due first day of school

What to read:

Introduction

The Prologue

The Knight's Tale

The Nun's Priest's Tale

Reading Journal: Due the first day of class.

Purchase a standard composition notebook and on the first page, write *The Canterbury Tales* by Geoffrey Chaucer and your name. In your journal create a section for the following:

- **The Introduction:** Write a summary of the Introduction.
- **The Prologue**
 - Create a list of the Pilgrims and
 - Write a description of each one.
 - Keep track of the profession of each pilgrimage
- **The Knight's Tale**
 - Create a list of the characters and a description of each

- A summary of the tale
- What virtue do you think the pilgrim is promoting
- Two questions about the tale
- **The Nun's Priest's Tale**
 - Create a list of the characters and a description of each
 - A summary of the tale
 - What virtue do you think the pilgrim promoting
 - Two questions about the tale

Essay: Choose one of the topics below and write a five-paragraph essay on The Knight's Tale.

- **Chivalry: Ideal or Illusion?**
Examine how Chaucer presents the ideals of knighthood through Palamon, Arcite, and Theseus.
- **Courtly Love and Competition**
Explore how romantic love becomes intertwined with rivalry, honor, and violence.
- **The Function of Theseus as a Ruler**
Discuss whether Theseus represents wisdom and justice or excessive control and authority.
- **Women as Symbols Rather Than Individuals**
Consider the role of Emilye and whether she has agency within the story.
- **The Influence of Classical Tradition**
Explore how Chaucer incorporates elements from Greek and Roman epic and mythology.