

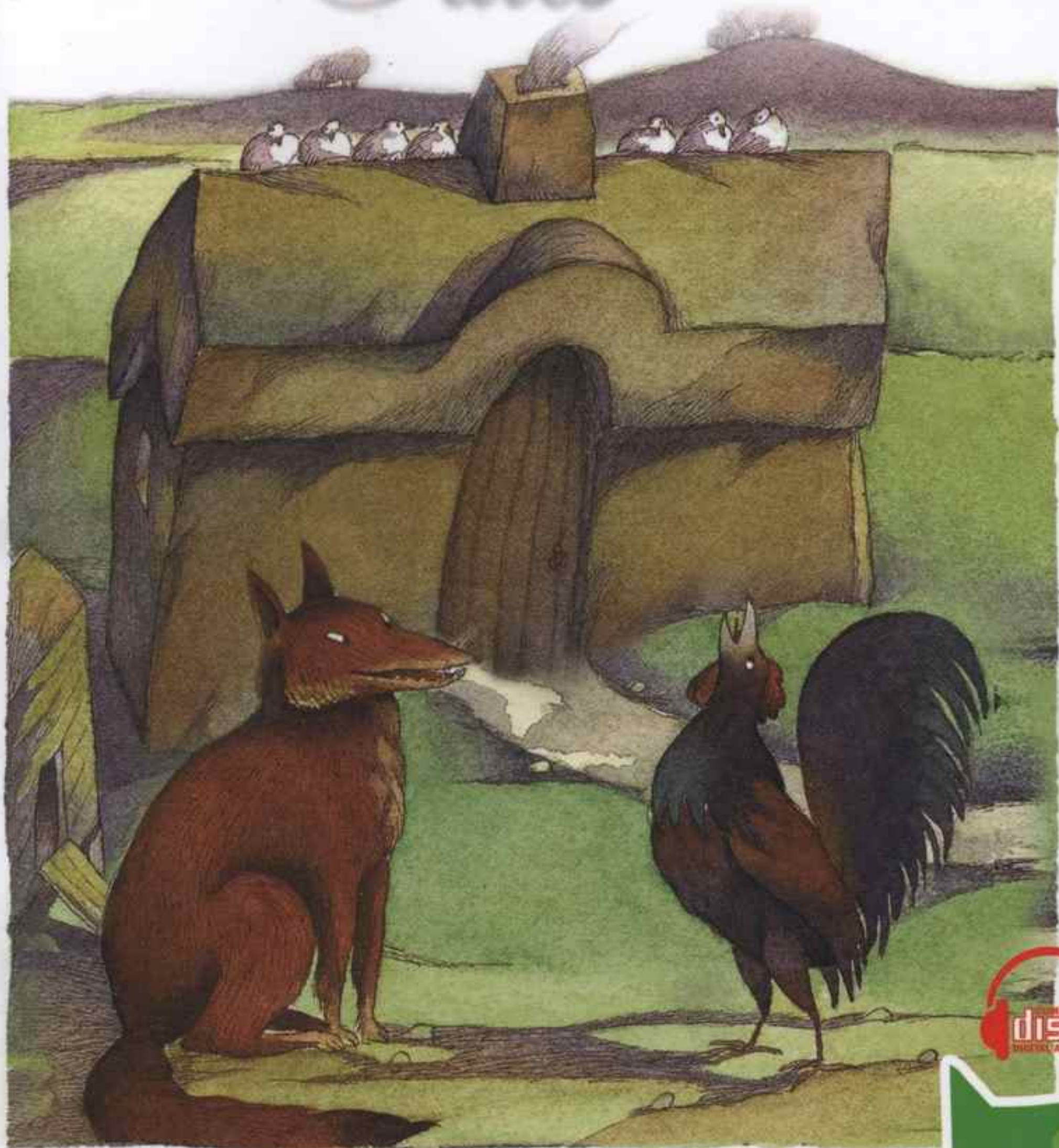


杰弗里·乔叟

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The Canterbury

Tales 坎特伯雷故事



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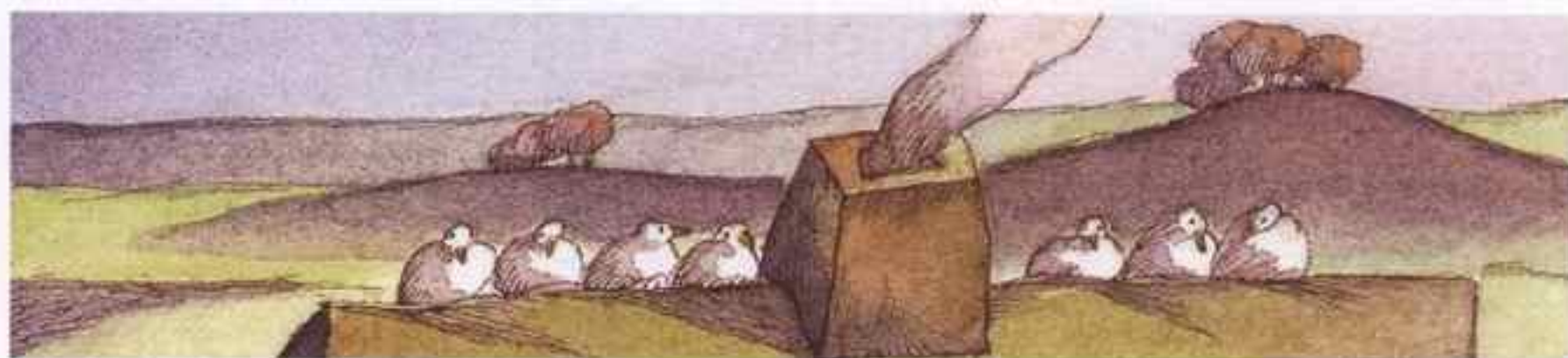
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Geoffrey Chaucer (after 1400) by unknown artist.

The Life of Geoffrey Chaucer

Geoffrey Chaucer is often called ‘the Father of English poetry’, the first great writer in English. He was born in London in about 1340, the son of John Chaucer, an important wine merchant. For most of his life, Geoffrey was connected with the royal court in London in various ways, and official records often mention his name.

When he was about sixteen, he became a page¹ in the household² of one of the King’s daughters-in-law. In 1359, he served as a soldier in the war in France. He was taken prisoner but released for a ransom,³ part of which the King himself paid. During the 1360’s, he worked in

1. page : 年轻男仆。

2. household : 家庭。

3. ransom : 赎金。

the King's household and was in contact with the sophisticated ¹ society of the court. Perhaps he was responsible for entertaining the lords and ladies with stories. He married Philippa, a lady-in-waiting ² to the Queen, and had at least two sons. One, Thomas Chaucer, went on to become one of the richest men in England. Geoffrey became closely connected to the powerful family of the Duke of Lancaster and wrote a famous poem on the death of the Duchess.

Chaucer describes himself in his writing as a fat man with a modest, simple personality. It seems that he was deeply interested in religion but also enjoyed earthy ³ humour. One of his most famous characters is the Wife of Bath, a woman who had been married five times and had had many lovers! Many of his works are about love and marriage, especially about the equality of men and women. At the end of *The Canterbury Tales*, he apologises for writing some stories which are against established ⁴ religion.

One of the most important events of his life was his visit to Italy in 1372. He stayed there for eleven months, visiting Genoa, Pisa and Florence. He already knew French literature very well but now he came into contact with the works of Dante, Boccaccio and Petrarch. This Italian influence was very strong in his later work. The plan of *The Canterbury Tales* – where each pilgrim ⁵ tells a story to the others – is almost certainly based upon Boccaccio's *Decameron*.

He also realised the importance of creating literature in the vernacular, ⁶ in the language of the people. Dante had established Italian as a literary language; Chaucer wanted to do the same for English.

1. sophisticated : 世故的。

2. lady-in-waiting : 宫女。

3. earthy : 粗俗的。

4. established : 官方的。

5. pilgrim : 朝圣者。

6. the vernacular : 本民族语言。



The frontispiece of an early copy of Chaucer's *Troilus and Criseyde*. Chaucer is shown here reading a manuscript to the court of Richard II.

He occupied various important positions in the court in the 1370's and 80's. We know that he went on a secret mission ¹ to Flanders and visited Italy again. He had already completed some major works of literature and probably began *The Canterbury Tales* when he was about forty. He never completed *The Tales*. It was a huge project which would have included 120 stories if it had been finished.

After 1386, he began to be short of money ² but was able to occupy a house in the garden of Westminster Abbey from 1399. He died in 1400 on October 25th at the age of about sixty and was buried in Westminster Abbey. This fact shows that he was popular with the King and the court. In the centuries since he died, other famous writers have been buried in the same area of the Abbey. This part has become known as Poet's Corner and you can visit it in Westminster Abbey if you come to London.

1 For questions 1-8, tick (✓) the answers (A, B, C or D) which you think fit best according to the text.

1. Chaucer was born in the
A ☐ twelfth century.
B ☐ thirteenth century.
C ☐ fourteenth century.
D ☐ fifteenth century.
2. He was born in
A ☐ London.
B ☐ Canterbury.
C ☐ France.
D ☐ Italy.

1. mission : 使命。

2. short of money : 没有足够的金钱。

3. What was he connected with?
- A ☐ The court.
 - B ☐ The Church.
 - C ☐ The army.
 - D ☐ The wine trade.
4. Where was he taken prisoner?
- A ☐ In France.
 - B ☐ In Flanders.
 - C ☐ In Germany.
 - D ☐ In Italy.
5. *The Canterbury Tales* was almost certainly based on
- A ☐ Dante's *Divine Comedy*.
 - B ☐ Boccaccio's *Decameron*.
 - C ☐ Petrarch's *Canzoniere*.
 - D ☐ Shakespeare's *A Winter's Tale*.
6. Chaucer began writing *The Canterbury Tales* when he was about
- A ☐ thirty.
 - B ☐ forty.
 - C ☐ fifty.
 - D ☐ sixty.
7. He hadn't finished writing it when he died in
- A ☐ 1386.
 - B ☐ 1399.
 - C ☐ 1400.
 - D ☐ 1372.
8. The place he was buried in Westminster Abbey is known as
- A ☐ Poet's Place.
 - B ☐ Poet's Heaven.
 - C ☐ Poet's Corner.
 - D ☐ Poet's Cemetery.

Chaucer's World

Chaucer lived in dangerous times. There were three kings during his lifetime: Edward III who became less popular as he grew older, Richard II who was murdered and Henry IV. There was a long, continuing war against France and disagreements between the English king and the Pope. ¹

It was also the time of the 'Black Death' or Plague. ² This terrible disease was brought to England in 1348 by ships from the continent ³ which carried the infection. ⁴ It spread rapidly, carried by black rats. Perhaps as much as a third of the population of England died. Complete villages were destroyed. Both rich and poor suffered – three Archbishops of Canterbury died from the Plague. 'God is deaf,' wrote one English poet.



An illumination of a text of the Mass ⁵ to be said in times of pestilence. ⁶

1. the Pope : (天主教) 教皇，罗马主教。
2. Plague : 黑死病。
3. continent : (此处指) 欧洲大陆。

4. infection : 传染病。
5. Mass : 弥撒。
6. pestilence : 鼠疫。

Religion, however, continued to be a powerful force. Many people believed that the Plague was God's punishment for human beings. They believed in Hell and were afraid that if they did not follow religion, they would burn in everlasting ¹ fires. The Church itself contained some bad men. Chaucer describes the Pardoner ² and the Summoner ³ who used their jobs in the Church to become rich as examples. The Prioress, ⁴ with her fine clothes and her little dogs, is a comfort-loving lady who sees religion as an opportunity to obtain a high social position.

Pilgrimages ⁵ were very popular. The most famous pilgrimage in England itself was the journey to Canterbury. People believed that Thomas Becket, who had been murdered in Canterbury Cathedral, could help the sick and answer prayers. The Wife of Bath, another of Chaucer's pilgrims, has even been as far as Jerusalem on a pilgrimage. Some people became pilgrims for authentic ⁶ religious reasons. However, many treated it as a holiday.

The first lines of *The Canterbury Tales* suggest this:

Whan that Aprille with his shoures sote
The droghte of March hath perced to the rote,...
Than longen folk to goon on pilgrimages.

In other words:

When the pleasant weather comes in spring,
Pilgrims desire to start their travelling...

1. everlasting : 永久的。

2. pardoner : (中世纪) 获准出售天主教赎罪券的人。

3. summoner : 把教徒召集到教堂的神职人员。

4. prioress : 女修道院院长。

5. pilgrimages : 朝圣。

6. authentic : 真实的。

1 Without looking back, can you answer these questions?

- a. Which three kings were in power during Chaucer's life?
- b. Which country had a long war with England?
- c. What was the 'Black Death'?
- d. Complete this line: 'God is'
- e. Name three people from *The Tales* who work for the Church.
- f. Where was Thomas Becket murdered?
- g. Why did the Wife of Bath visit Jerusalem?
- h. In which month did the pilgrims begin their journey?

Chronology of Geoffrey Chaucer and his Times

	CHAUCER	HIS TIMES
c. 1312-1313	Birth of Geoffrey Chaucer	
1313		Birth of Giovanni Boccaccio, Italian poet
1337-1453		The Hundred Years' War between England and France
1321		Death of Dante Alighieri, Italian poet
1359	Chaucer serves in the war in France	
1365-1366	Chaucer marries Philippa Roet	
1368	Chaucer writes the <i>Book of the Duchess</i> about the death of Blanche, Duchess of Lancaster	The Duchess of Lancaster dies (First wife of John of Gaunt, third son of Edward III)
1374		Death of Petrarch, Italian poet
1375		Death of Giovanni Boccaccio, Italian poet
1378		The 'Great Schism' ¹ : there are rival Popes in Rome and Avignon
1381	Death of Chaucer's mother	The Peasant's revolt (June 1381)
1381-1386	Chaucer writes <i>Boece</i> and <i>Troilus and Criseyde</i>	The heretical ² views of John Wycliffe are officially condemned

1. schism : 教会分裂。

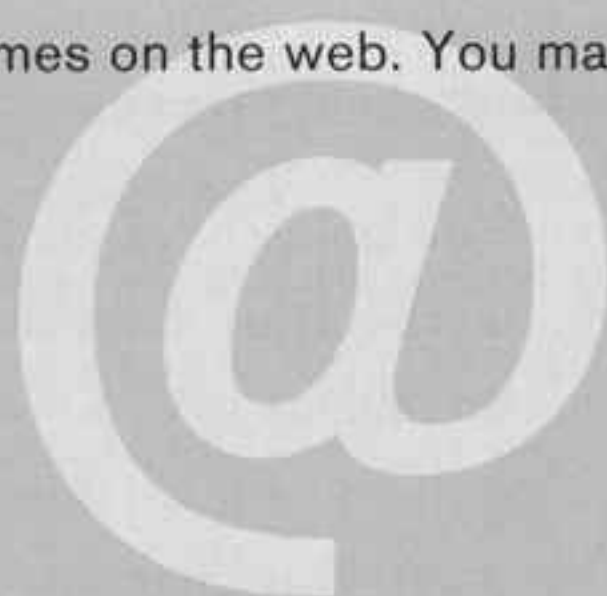
2. heretical : 异端的。

	CHAUCER	HIS TIMES
1386	Chaucer writes <i>The Legend of Good Women</i>	
1387-1392	Chaucer begins <i>The Canterbury Tales</i>	
1388		Richard II closest supporters are removed
1391-1392	Chaucer writes <i>The Treatise of the Astrolabe</i>	
1392-1395	Chaucer writes most of <i>The Canterbury Tales</i>	
June 1394		Death of Queen Anne
1396		Richard II marries princess Isabel, daughter of king Philip of VI of France to bring an end to the wars
1396-1400	Chaucer writes the latest of <i>The Canterbury Tales</i>	
1400	Chaucer writes <i>The Complaint of Chaucer to His Purse</i>	
25 October 1400	Chaucer's death	

INTERNET PROJECT

Read the chronology about Chaucer's times on the web. You may research the following topics:

- ▶ The Hundred Years' War
- ▶ The English monarchy
- ▶ Italian poets



Summary

It is the middle of the fourteenth century. A group of pilgrims are travelling from the Tabard Inn in London to the shrine¹ of Thomas Becket in Canterbury. On the way, they decide that each traveller should tell a story – about love, about marriage, about war, about murder, about jealousy, about magic. The Knight tells a tale of high romance.² The Pardoner tells a story of death. And the Wife of Bath tells the story of her life, of her five husbands and her fight to control the men in her life. But The Tales end with the story of the perfect marriage and how, if we are generous to one another, we can find the perfect society.

Before you begin

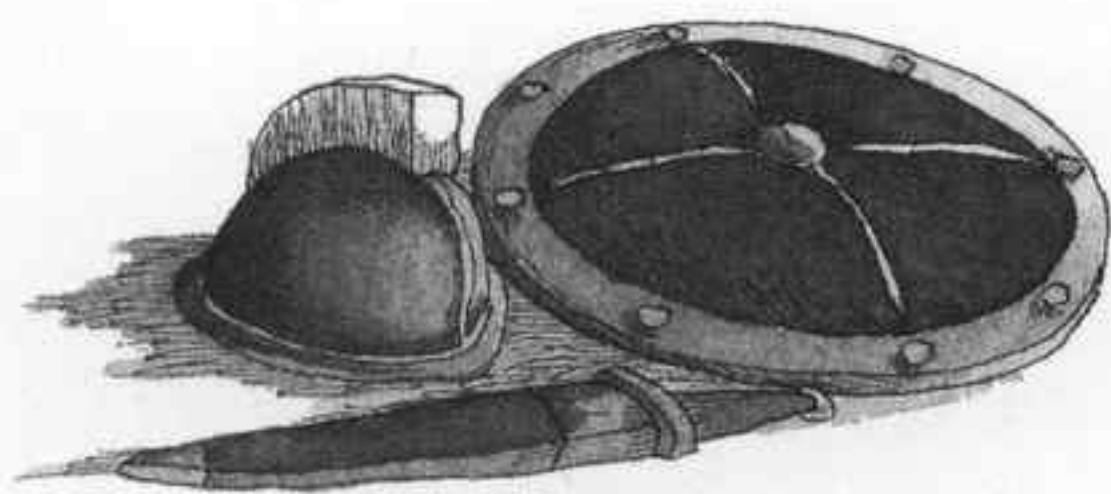
1 Think about these questions:

- a. How much have people changed in the last six hundred years?
- b. Is friendship more important than love?
- c. Do dreams have a meaning?
- d. Will men do anything for gold?
- e. What do women most desire?
- f. What makes a perfect marriage?

As you read the six parts of *The Canterbury Tales*, you will find some answers!

1. shrine : 神龛。

2. high romance : 上流社会的爱情故事。



✠ PART ONE ✠

The Prologue



In April, when the sweet showers ¹ fall and feed the roots in the earth, the flowers begin to bloom. ² The soft wind blows from the west and the young sun rises in the sky. The small birds sing in the green forests. Then people want to go on pilgrimages. From every part of England, they go to Canterbury to visit the tomb of Thomas Becket, the martyr, ³ who helped the sick.

My name is Geoffrey Chaucer. People say that I am a poet but I am not really very important. I am just a story-teller. One day in spring, I was staying in London at the Tabard Inn. ⁴ At night, a

1. showers : 阵雨。

2. bloom : 开花。

3. martyr : 殉道者。

4. the Tabard Inn : 旅馆名。

The Canterbury Tales

great crowd of people arrived at the inn, ready to go on a pilgrimage to Canterbury. I soon made friends with them and promised to join them.

‘You must get up early,’ they told me. ‘We are leaving when the sun rises.’

Before I begin my story, I will describe the pilgrims to you. There were twenty-nine. There were men and women, young and old, fat and thin, ugly and beautiful, poor men and lords, some riding, some walking, some who lived good lives, others who were bad. If you want to know about the world of human beings, then go on a pilgrimage!

First of all, there was a knight. He was a brave man who had fought for chivalry,¹ truth and honour. He had taken part in wars in all parts of the world. He always fought bravely and he always killed his enemy. Although he was a famous man, he was modest, sincere and polite. He was a perfect gentleman.

The Knight rode a fine horse but his clothes still carried the marks of war. He was going on the pilgrimage to thank God for his victories.

The Knight’s son, a fine young Squire,² rode with him. He was twenty years old, with curly³ hair and a handsome face. He had fought well in war to win the love of his lady. He knew how to ride well, to write songs and poems, to draw and to dance. The girls all loved him, that handsome young man.

1. chivalry : 骑士精神。

2. squire : 骑士随从。

3. curly : 卷曲的。





G. Maura

The Canterbury Tales

There was a countryman riding with him. He carried a bow and arrows, a sword and a hunting horn. His face was brown and his clothes were green. There were peacock feathers on his arrows. He was a true man of the forest.

Then there was an elegant Prioress. Her name was Madam Eglantine. She spoke fine French with an English accent and had very good manners. When she was eating, she was careful not to make a mess.¹ What a fine, sensitive lady! If she saw a mouse which was caught in a trap,² she cried. She gave roast meat or milk or fine white bread to her little dogs and, if one died, she was sad for weeks.

She had grey eyes, small soft red lips and a wide forehead. Her clothes were fashionable. She wore a graceful cloak, a coral bracelet,³ some beads and a golden brooch⁴ marked with an 'A'. 'Amor vincit omnia' was written on it. That is Latin – 'Love conquers all'.

There was another nun, a secretary and three priests. Also, there was a fat monk who wore rich clothes and loved hunting. His favourite food was roast swan.⁵ Next to him, there was a merry Friar. This fat Friar loved pretty girls, silver and gold and singing. He knew all the inns in town and loved drinking better than praying.

1. **make a mess** : 使…脏乱。

2. **trap** : 捕动物的器具。

3. **bracelet** : 手镯。

4. **brooch** : 胸针。

5. **swan** : 天鹅。



The Prologue

These were all religious people. But they loved the world – a fashionable lady, a rich monk and a pleasure-loving friar!

All kinds of people rode on the pilgrimage. There was a rich Merchant with a long beard and rich clothes. He knew how to make money and rode a fat horse. But next to him, the Oxford Cleric¹ rode a thin horse. He preferred to have books by great philosophers next to his bed, not bags of money. A Franklin² with a white beard rode with them, a man who loved good food and wine.

After them, there was a Cook who knew how to cook delicious meals with herbs and spices.³ Then there was a brown-faced Sea-Captain who looked like a pirate. He had fought battles at sea and made his prisoners walk the plank.⁴ Then there was a doctor who knew everything about the body. His patients paid him with gold. The plague had made him very rich indeed!

Look at the next pilgrim! She was a large red-faced woman from the city of Bath. She wore a huge hat and a long coat over her wide hips.⁵ Her tights⁶ were red and her shoes were new. Her face was as red as her clothes. How many husbands do you think she had been married to? Five! She had lived longer than them all. That is how she became rich enough to go on pilgrimages, to Jerusalem, to Spain, to France, to Rome... The Wife of Bath liked

1. cleric : 教士, 牧师。

2. franklin : 地主。

3. herbs and spices : 香料。

4. plank : 长条型木板, 海盗使其敌人由船上跌下海。

5. hips : 臀部。

6. tights : 袜裤。

The Canterbury Tales

to laugh and talk about love, a subject in which she was an expert! What a woman!

Now, I will tell you about the Miller.¹ He was a great, fat, strong man with a red beard and huge muscles. On the end of his large red nose, there was a large red hairy wart.² The Miller loved drinking and telling jokes. But he was an expert thief who stole corn from his customers. As the pilgrims rode out of town, the Miller played the bagpipes.³ Everyone knew that we were coming!

A Parson was also travelling with us. He loved God and loved to help other people. He gave money to the poor, gave advice to people with problems and visited the sick, even when the weather was bad. He was a very good man.

But behind him, I am sorry to tell you, there were two bad men. One was a Summoner. His job was to punish people who broke the religious laws. The church was very strong in those times, so he had a lot of power. And he used it to make money from poor people who were afraid of him. This Summoner had a red face with large pimples.⁴ He stank⁵ of garlic and onions.⁶ He looked so terrible that children were afraid when they saw him!

The other man was the Pardoner. He had long yellow hair like rats' tails with no beard. Uggh! If people gave him money, he forgave them in the name of the Church. That was his job. He always carried bits of wood and cloth and bones which he said

1. **miller** : 磨坊主。

2. **wart** : (皮肤上长的) 疣。

3. **bagpipes** : 风笛。

4. **pimples** : 粉刺。

5. **stank** : 发臭。

6. **garlic and onions** : 蒜和洋葱。



The Prologue

came from the Virgin Mary or Jesus or the saints. He was a liar, of course. He earned far more money than the honest Parson. When he sang in church, he had a fine voice. But his heart was black and ugly.

There were many other pilgrims. But it will be boring if I tell you about them all. It's time to begin telling the stories.

I shall tell you everything about the pilgrimage. But please remember that I am only repeating what the pilgrims said and did. If sometimes the stories which they told are not polite, it's not my fault. ¹ I must tell the truth, mustn't I?

The pilgrims began their journey from the Tabard Inn on the south bank of the Thames. Before we left, the Host ² gave us all a great meal. After we had eaten, he spoke to us. He was a large, bright-eyed man who loved to have fun.

'Welcome, ladies and gentlemen. I have decided to come with you to visit Saint Thomas. I hope we all enjoy our journey to Canterbury. I have an idea which will help us to enjoy the long pilgrimage. Each person must tell a story on the way to Canterbury. And another story on the way back! We'll give a prize to the person who tells the best story. What do you think?'

All the pilgrims agreed with this idea. They ordered more wine and then went to bed. Early next morning, the Host woke everybody up.

'Who will tell the first story?' he asked. 'I choose the Knight.'

'Very well,' said the Knight. 'I will begin the game. Let's start riding towards Canterbury – and listen to my story.'

1. **fault** : 过错。

2. **host** : 旅馆老板。

Comprehension and Opinion

1 What did Chaucer tell us in The Prologue?

- When and where did Chaucer meet the pilgrims?
- Why did the girls like the Squire?
- Did the Prioress like animals?
- What was the Wife of Bath wearing?
- Did the Summoner and the Pardoner care about religion?
- What was the Host's idea?

2 What do you think?

Which pilgrims did Chaucer admire?

Which pilgrims did Chaucer dislike?

Are there people in our society who are like Chaucer's pilgrims?

Appearance

- 3** Chaucer describes the Prioress. He writes about her cloak, her beads, her bracelet and her brooch. Can you label these on the picture?




Here is a list of 30 words:

attractive beard blonde blouse bracelet brooch
 cloak curly ear-rings elegant elbow finger
 graceful hat handsome hips jacket knee
 moustache necklace overcoat pendant¹ pretty
 ring straight skirt thumb ugly wavy wrist

Divide them into five lists of six words each.

Jewellery	Hair	Clothes	Appearance	Parts of the body

Spot the Difference

-  **4** Here is the beginning of The Prologue. But listen carefully there are ten changes. Listen once. Pause to take notes. Listen again. Write down as many differences as you can spot.

Differences:

-
-
-
-
-
-
-
-
-
-

If necessary listen for a third time, following the text on pages 19-20.
 How many differences can you spot?

1. pendant : (项链上的) 垂饰。

5 Topic – Clothes

Collect some recent pictures / photos of people of different ages from your country.

Talk about the pictures:

1. Compare the clothes in the pictures to those in this book.
2. Say what women were not allowed to wear in the past in your country.
3. Say what visitors to your country would see / not see people wearing.

.....

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Relative Pronouns

We can use these words **who**, **which**, **whose**, **where** to link sentences. For example:

The Miller bought wheat. He turned the wheat into flour.

The Miller bought wheat **which** he turned into flour.

The Prioress was the leader of the Priory. The nuns lived there.

The Prioress was the leader of the Priory **where** the nuns lived.

' The Knight had fought in many wars. He was famous.

The Knight, **who** had fought in many wars, was famous.

6 Now match sentences 1-8 with sentences a-h.

- 1. ☒ Canterbury is a city in Kent.
- 2. ☐ The Wife of Bath had been married five times.
- 3. ☐ Chaucer wrote *The Canterbury Tales*.
- 4. ☐ Pilgrimages usually begin in April.
- 5. ☐ The Prioress had several little dogs.
- 6. ☐ The Pardoner and the Summoner were bad men.
- 7. ☐ Chaucer stayed at the Tabard Inn.
- 8. ☐ The Knight was a perfect gentleman.

- a. The pilgrims started their journey at the Tabard Inn.
- b. She was an expert in love.
- c. April is the first month of spring.
- d. They took money from the poor.
- e. Thomas Becket died there.
- f. His son was loved by all the girls.
- g. She loved them.
- h. He lived in the fourteenth century.

Now make each pair of sentences into one sentence by using *who* (for people) or *which* (for things) or *whose* (for possession) or *where* (for place).

.....

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- 7** Look at Part One and for each question below choose from the people (A-K). The people may be chosen more than once. When more than one answer is required, these may be given in any order. There is an example at the beginning (0).

A the Countryman

C the Friar

E the Prioress

G the Monk

I the Wife of Bath

K the Merchant

B the Knight

D Geoffrey Chaucer

F the Squire

H the Summoner

J the Pardoner

Which person(s):

was staying at the Tabard Inn?

0.

was sincere, polite and modest?

1.

had fought in war for love?

2.

was a true man of the forest?

3.

spoke French?

4.

loved pretty girls and drinking?

5.

loved the world?

6.

loved eating roast swan?

7.

loved singing?

8.

had been married five times?

9.

were bad men?

10.

11.

were rich?

12.

13.

14.

The New York Tales

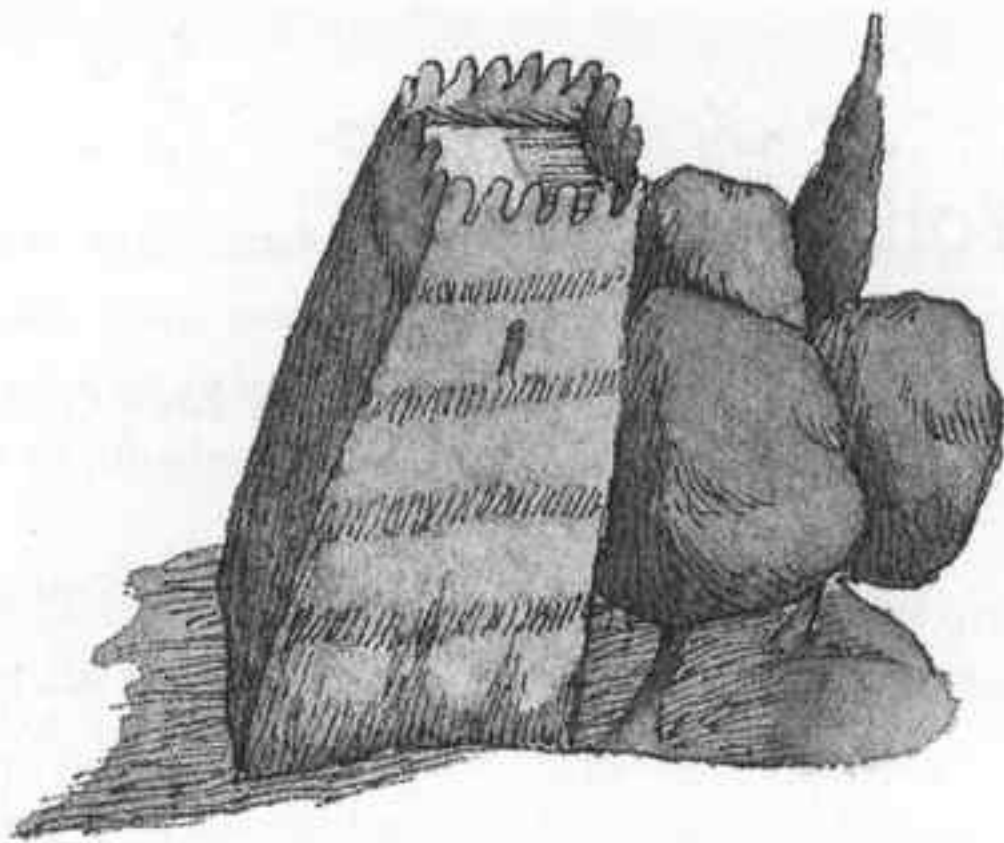
- 8** Chaucer described the typical people of his society. Can you do the same for our century? For example:

Imagine a group of modern travellers at an airport. They are all flying to New York. The flight is late and they are all together.

- The Fashion Model was tall and slim. She wore beautiful clothes. She sat in the airport restaurant. She was eating salad and drinking mineral water. She told us about her fashion shows in Paris, London and Milan. 'I am the star,' she said. Every five minutes, she took her bag and looked in a small silver mirror. 'I am so beautiful,' she said.
- The Businessman was eating a large steak and drinking whisky. He was fat and bald with a large red face. He carried a black case full of documents. He told us about his business meetings in all the important cities of the world. He looked at his gold Swiss watch every five minutes. 'Time is money,' he repeated.

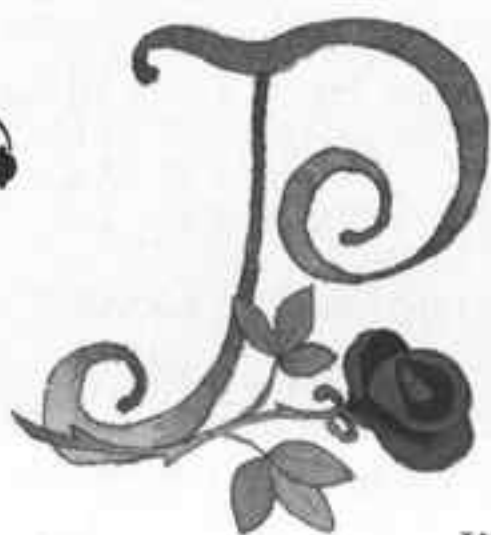
Write a few sentences about the other travellers.

- a. What were their jobs? Actor? Politician? Robber? Professor? Film Director? Singer? Scientist? TV star?
- b. What did they look like?
- c. What did they eat?
- d. What did they have with them?
- e. What did they talk about?
- f. What did they do?
- g. What did they say?



✠ PART TWO ✠

The Knight's Tale



Palamon and Arcite were two cousins who lived in the Greek city of Thebes. The King of Thebes, Creon, was an old, wicked¹ man who treated his enemies very badly. Theseus, the Duke of Athens, met a group of women as he was travelling. They were crying.

'Help us, Lord Theseus. We are all widows. Creon has murdered our husbands!'

Theseus decided to attack Thebes. He sent his wife, Hippolyta, and her sister, Emily, to his palace where they would be safe. Then he marched towards Thebes with his soldiers.

Palamon and Arcite fought bravely to defend their city but, in the end, they fell unconscious² to the ground. The victorious

1. wicked : 邪恶的。

2. unconscious : 失去知觉。

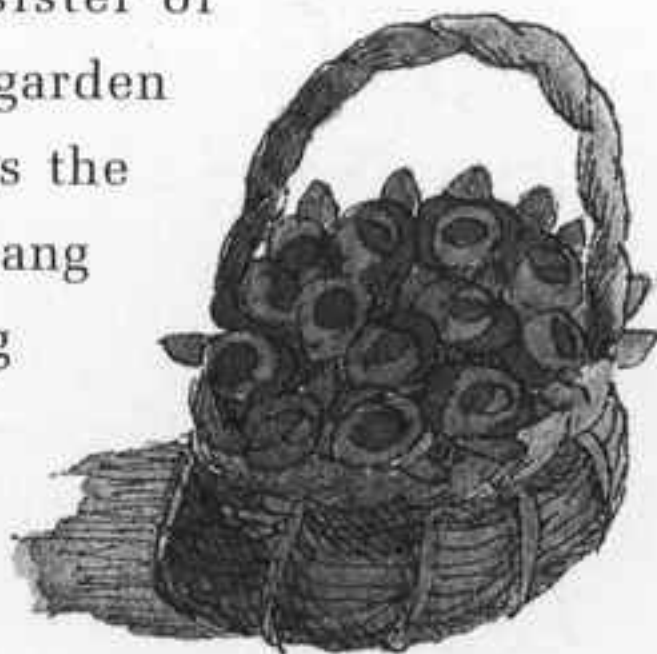
The Knight's Tale

soldiers of Athens walked among the dead bodies on the battlefield.¹

'Come here!' shouted a soldier. 'These two are still breathing. They're alive!'

It was Palamon and Arcite. Theseus took the two young men prisoner. He took them back to Athens and locked them in a tall dark tower. No gold could buy their freedom. They were prisoners for life!

One morning in May, Emily, the sister of Queen Hippolyta, was walking in the garden near the tower. She was as beautiful as the lilies² and roses that grew there. She sang like an angel. Palamon, who was looking sadly out of the window, cried out when he saw her. An arrow had gone through his heart. He had fallen in love.



Arcite heard him shout. He also came to the window and looked out through the thick iron bars. As soon as he saw Emily, he also lost his heart to her. They were both in love with the same woman!

Palamon was angry with Arcite. 'You are my friend and my cousin. When we were children, we promised that we would always help each other. Now you have betrayed³ me! You are in love with my lady!'

1. battlefield : 战场。

2. lilies : 百合花。

3. betrayed : 背叛。

The Canterbury Tales

'I love her more than you,' replied Arcite. 'I am right to love her. There is no law in love. But let's stop quarrelling. We are both prisoners. She will never marry either of us.'

Every day the two cousins, with burning hearts, looked through the bars and watched her walking in the garden.

Shortly after this, a duke from Thebes came to visit Duke Theseus. This visitor was a friend of Arcite and begged Theseus to release him from prison. 'I will pay you money,' he said.

Duke Theseus spoke sternly. 'I agree to let him go. But there is one condition. Arcite must leave Athens immediately. If he ever returns, he will die!'

So Arcite received his freedom but had to return to Thebes while Palamon remained in the tower all alone.

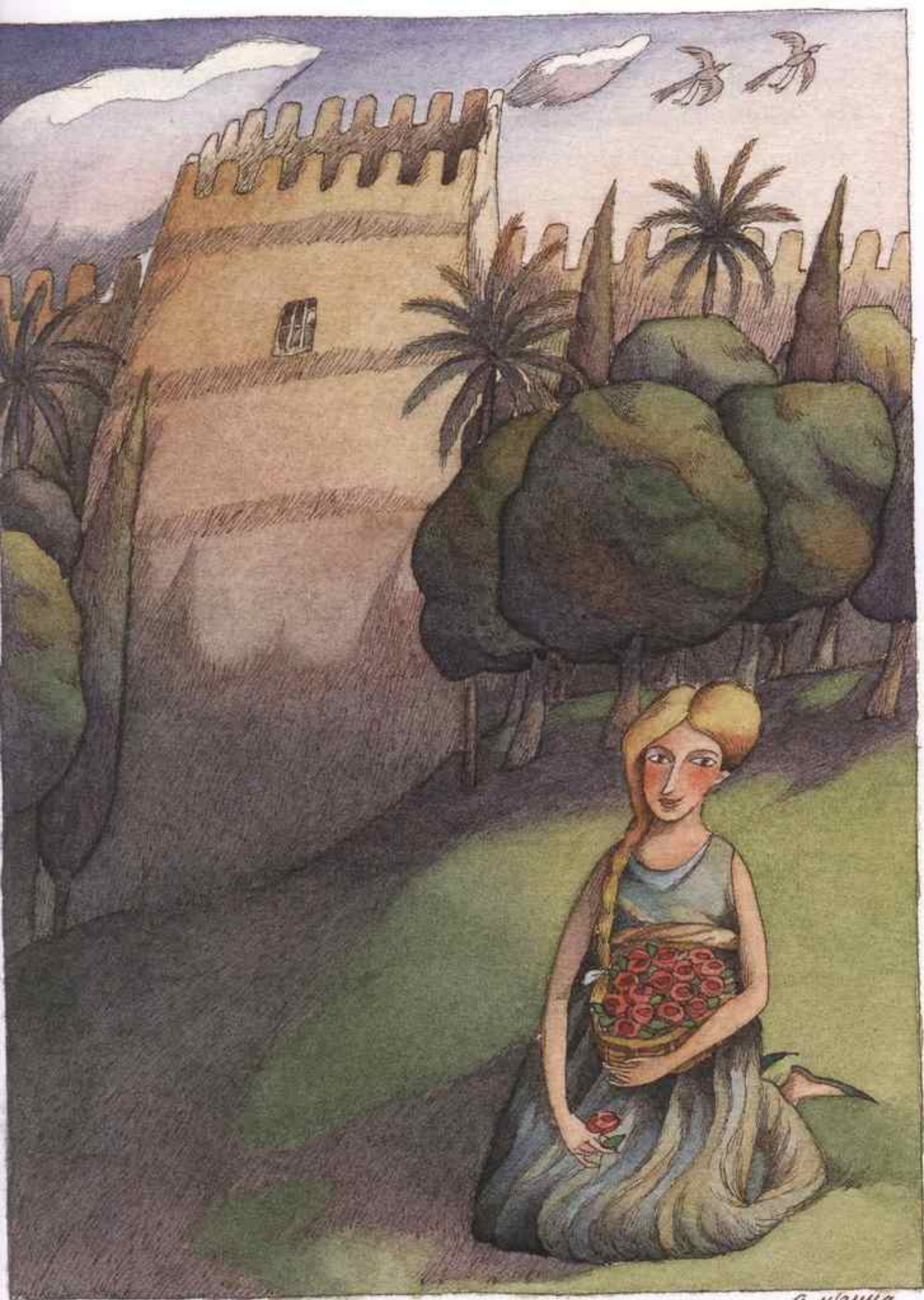
Arcite was very unhappy. 'I am free but I cannot see the lovely Emily. Palamon is far luckier than I am. Every day, he can look out of his window and watch her walking in the garden. He is in Paradise!'¹

Palamon was equally unhappy. 'Arcite is far luckier than I am. He can collect a great army in Thebes and march against Athens. If he wins the war against Theseus, he can marry Emily. He is in Paradise!'

Arcite, however, had a different plan. He came back secretly to Athens. He looked pale and sick because he had been for so long from a broken heart. Nobody recognised him. He took off his lord's clothes and put on the clothes of a poor man. Then he went to the house of Lady Emily.

'My name is Philostrate,' he told the servants. 'I am looking for a job.'

1. paradise : 天堂。



G. Manna

The Canterbury Tales

He was a strong, hard-working young man, so he was given a job. Arcite became the personal servant of Lady Emily! But if anyone recognised him, he would die.

Palamon was in the tower for seven years. One day, however, a friend helped him to escape. He gave the guard a glass of wine with drugs in it that made him sleep. Then Palamon ran away. He crept¹ through Athens in the middle of the night and reached the countryside where he hid in a grove.² Both lovers were now free.

It was May. All the fields were green, the flowers were brightly coloured and the birds were singing. Thinking about his love for Emily, Arcite rode into the countryside.

'I am in a terrible situation,' he said aloud, thinking that no-one was listening. 'I cannot use my real name. I am only a servant to the lady that I want to make my wife.'

Palamon was hiding nearby in the forest. When he heard Arcite, he was very angry and rushed towards him.

'Emily is mine!' he shouted. 'You must not love her.'

'You are a lunatic³ for love,' said Arcite.

The two cousins began fighting, like a lion and a tiger in the forest, until they were standing in a river of blood.

On the same day, Theseus woke up early in his palace in the city. 'It is a clear bright day. We will go hunting,' he decided. He rode out into the countryside with Hippolyta, his lovely queen, and her sister, Emily. Suddenly, he saw two men fighting like animals in the middle of the forest.

'Stop!' he shouted. 'Who are you?'

1. **crept** : (creep, crept, crept) 悄悄地爬行。

2. **grove** : 小树丛。

3. **lunatic** : 疯子。

The Knight's Tale

'I am Palamon,' replied one. 'I deserve to die. I have escaped from your prison. But this is Arcite. He also deserves¹ to die. He has returned to Athens from Thebes under the name of Philostrate. We are fighting because we both love the lady Emily. Kill us both at the same time!'

'Yes, you deserve to die,' said Theseus. 'You are the enemies of Athens.'

But Emily and her ladies begged Theseus not to kill them. 'They are young, handsome men from good families. Forgive them.'

Theseus thought carefully. 'A good king must not be angry. He must be calm and wise. The God of Love is very powerful. Instead of escaping to Thebes, Palamon and Arcite stayed here because they loved you, Emily, even though you didn't know anything about their love! I was a lover when I was young. I have also done stupid things for love. I will let them live.'

He turned to Palamon and Arcite. 'Only one of you can marry my sister-in-law. Go away and collect a hundred knights each. In a year's time, return to Athens. Your two armies will fight and the winner will be the husband of Emily.'

The two cousins were very happy. They knelt in front of Theseus and thanked him. Then they returned as quickly as possible to Thebes. A year later, they came back to Athens. Each rode at the head of a hundred knights. The people of Athens came out into the streets to watch.

Arcite prayed to Mars, the god of war, and Palamon prayed for the help of Venus, the goddess of love. Arcite's men carried the red flag of Mars and Palamon's men carried the white flag of Venus.

1. **deserves** : 应得的 (惩罚)。

The Canterbury Tales

The fighting lasted from morning until night but finally Arcite and his hundred knights gained the victory. Mars had won! 'Arcite will marry Emily,' announced Theseus.

In Heaven, among the gods and goddesses, Venus was very angry. 'I am the Queen of Love but I have lost.'

She looked down on the world and saw Arcite riding on his horse towards Emily to take her as his wife. They looked softly at each other. Women usually love the winner. But then Venus acted. Suddenly, there was an earth tremor.¹ The ground shook under Arcite's horse. The horse was frightened and threw Arcite to the ground. He fell from his saddle² and was badly injured.

They carried Arcite to his bed and sent for doctors. 'Emily! Emily!' he called. The doctors tried to save him but he knew that he would die. Palamon and Emily came to his bedside.

'Oh Lady Emily, I love you greatly. You are my heart's queen. Take me in your arms and listen to me carefully. I am sorry now that I quarrelled with Palamon, who loves you too. After I die, if you wish to marry, think of him.'

He looked into Emily's eyes. Then he died.

There was a great funeral. Arcite's body was placed in a great fire just as, in his life, he had burnt in the fire of love.

Emily and Palamon were both very sad. They had lost a husband, a cousin and a friend.

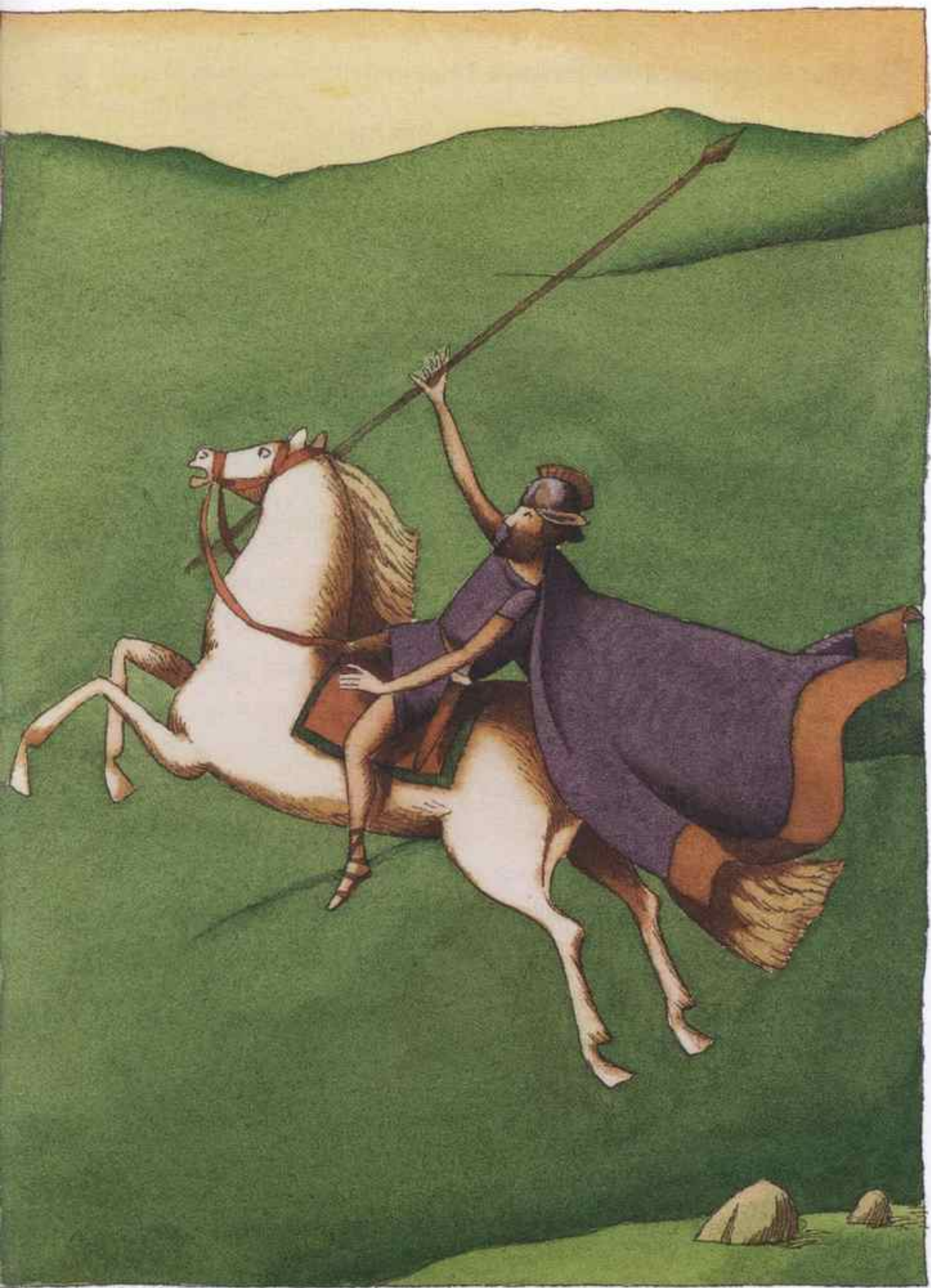
'Out of two sorrows, make one perfect joy,' said Theseus. 'Marry each other, as Arcite wished.'

So Emily and Palamon got married and lived all the rest of their lives in great happiness.

'And that is the end of my tale,' said the Knight.

1. earth tremor : 轻微地震。

2. saddle : 马鞍座。



Comprehension and Opinion

1 What happened in The Knight's Tale?

- a. Where did Theseus put Palamon and Arcite?
- b. Why did Palamon and Arcite quarrel?
- c. Why did Arcite return to Athens?
- d. What did the cousins do in the forest?
- e. How many knights came to the battle?
- f. Who won the battle? Who married Emily?

2 What do you think?

Is friendship more important than love?

Arcite said: 'There is no law in love.' Do you agree?

Did Theseus do the right thing?

Proverbs

Proverbs are traditional sayings. Arcite said:

'There is no law in love.'

Today we still say: *'All is fair in love and war.'*

3 Here are some more common proverbs. Do you understand them? Try and find a similar proverb in your own language.

- a. Too many cooks spoil the broth (soup).
- b. A bird in the hand is worth two in the bush (a small tree).
- c. Many hands make light work.
- d. It's no use crying over spilt milk.
- e. People who live in glass houses shouldn't throw stones.
- f. One swallow (a bird that arrives in England in spring) doesn't make a summer.

A Proverb about Love

- 4** Here is another English proverb. Each number represents a letter of the alphabet.

1.2.'3. 4.5.2.2.5.6. 2.7. 8.9.10.5. 11.7.10.5.12.
 9.13.12. 11.7.3.2. 2.8.9.13. 13.5.10.5.6. 2.7.
 8.9.10.5. 11.7.10.5.12. 9.2. 9.11.11.

If you can find the words below, you will be able to find the proverb.
 All the words are connected with fighting.

- a. A sport which needs big gloves: 4. 7. X 1. 13. G
- b. Another sport where you fight: W 6. 5. 3. 2. 11. 1. 13. G
- c. The winner: C. 8. 9. M P 1. 7. 13.
- d. The winning side can celebrate this: 10. 1. C 2. 7. 6. Y
- e. The opposite of this is: 12. 5. F 5. 9. 2.
- f. Guns, knives, swords are all: W 5. 9. P 7. 13. 3.
- g. Waterloo was a very important... 4. 9. 2. 2. 11. 5.
- h. An agreement to end a war: 2. 6. 5. 9. 2. Y
- i. These people fight on the land: 2. 8. 5. 9. 6. M Y
- j. These people fight on the sea: 2. 8. 5. 13. 9. 10. Y
- k. These people fight in the sky: 2. 8. 5. 9. 1. 6. F 7. 6. C 5.
- l. In a war, the opposite side is the... 5. 13. 5. M Y
- m. A football team must have a good... 9. 2. 2. 9. C K
- n. They also need a good... 12. 5. F 5. 13. C 5.
- o. The opposite of 'war': P 5. 9. C 5.
- p. The Knight is a... 3. 7. 11. 12. 1. 5. 6.

Write the proverb here:

Do you understand the proverb? Both Arcite and Palamon loved –
 but it's difficult to say who won and who lost in the end.

The Miller's Tale



5 You will hear the Knight's Tale and part of the Miller's Tale. For questions 1-10, tick (✓) the correct boxes true (T) or false (F).

	T	F
1. The carpenter ¹ was a clever man.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2. Nicholas was a lodger ² in the house.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3. Nicholas had a dream about a flood.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4. He told the carpenter about his 'dream'.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
5. Alison drowned in the flood.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
6. The carpenter made three large boats.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
7. He put the boats in the roof.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
8. They all slept inside the boats.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
9. It rained for several weeks.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
10. Nicholas's trick was successful.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

'All is fair in love and war.' Were Nicholas and Alison right to trick the carpenter?

.....

.....

.....

1. carpenter : 木匠。
 2. lodger : 房客。

- 6** Read the summary below and think of the word which best fits each space. Use only one word in each space. There is an example at the beginning (0).

Palamon and Arcite were two cousins ⁰who..... lived in the Greek city of Thebes. When Theseus, ¹ Duke of Athens attacked their city, Palamon and Arcite fought bravely but in the ² they were taken prisoner, taken back to Athens and locked in a tower.

One day Emily, the sister of Hippolyta, Theseus's wife, ³ walking in the garden near the tower. She was very beautiful and when Palamon and Arcite saw her they ⁴ fell in love with her and began arguing about who should marry her.

Soon after, Arcite was freed ⁵ condition that he left Athens. However, he came ⁶ secretly to Athens and found a job in Emily's house. After seven years Palamon escaped ⁷ the tower and arrived in the countryside. There he met Arcite who was out riding. The two cousins began fighting for Emily until Theseus arrived ⁸ Hippolyta and Emily. ⁹ first Theseus was very angry but then he told Palamon and Arcite to go away and collect 100 knights each and then return to Athens to fight. The winner would then marry Emily. Arcite won the ¹⁰ but as he approached Emily, he was thrown from ¹¹ horse. As he lay dying he told Palamon and Emily to ¹² married. They ¹³ very sad, but after the funeral they got married and lived happily together.

Thomas Becket

Thomas Becket was murdered on 29th December, 1170, in Canterbury Cathedral. This was the end of Becket's life but the beginning of the great tradition of pilgrimage to Canterbury which Chaucer writes about in *The Canterbury Tales*. There are many other pieces of literature connected with Becket,


including the twentieth century play *Murder in the Cathedral* by T. S. Eliot.

Becket was born in 1118 in London. As a child, he showed 'quick understanding' and received a good education. He began a career in the Church as an administrator¹ but, in 1154, he became Chancellor² to King Henry II. This was one of the most powerful and important jobs in the kingdom. King Henry

Henry II (1133-1189) from Matthew Paris's Chronicles.



1. administrator : 管理者。
2. Chancellor : (此处为) 枢密大臣。



was twenty-one years old and became great friends with Thomas. For that reason, he appointed him as Archbishop of Canterbury, the head of the Church in all England, in 1162.

But Becket changed. Instead of supporting the King, he defended the power of the Church. There was a long period of disagreement between Henry and Thomas. Finally, Henry became so angry that Becket escaped to France where he stayed for six years. In 1170, he returned to England. The people of Canterbury welcomed him back to the city and he became a popular hero. He continued to attack the power of the King.

When Henry, who was in France, heard of Thomas's activities, he said angrily: 'Who will rid me of this turbulent ¹ priest?' Four knights immediately set off for England. They arrived in Canterbury and looked for Thomas. His monks begged him to lock himself in the cathedral but Becket said that the house of God must remain open. The knights entered the cathedral and killed the Archbishop, with axe ² and sword.

After the murder, King Henry showed his sorrow by coming to Canterbury. He walked barefoot through the city and was whipped by the monks. He was the first pilgrim to Canterbury. After this, pilgrims came from all over England and from other parts of Europe to visit the tomb of Becket. The Pope made him a saint and his tomb was placed at the east end of the cathedral, decorated with jewels. There were many stories of miracles, of sick people who were made well and even of dead people who came alive again because of the power of Saint Thomas.

1. turbulent : 制造麻烦的。

2. axe : 斧子。

Finally, however, in the time of King Henry VIII, when England changed from a Roman Catholic country to a Protestant ¹ one, Becket's shrine was destroyed. Henry took all the wealth of the monks of Canterbury for the state. Today, you can still see the place where Becket was murdered. The stories of his miracles are shown in the ancient stained-glass windows ² and there is one famous



window which shows a portrait of Becket himself. Nobody, however, has ever found his bones. People believe they are buried somewhere in the cathedral. If you come to visit Canterbury, perhaps you will find them.

St Thomas à Becket shown in a stained-glass window in Canterbury Cathedral (c. 1220).

1. Protestant : 新教的。

2. stained-glass windows : 彩画玻璃窗。

1 Read the story of Thomas Becket again. Then tick (✓) the correct statements true (T) or false (F). Correct the false ones.

- | | T | F |
|---|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| a. Becket quarrelled with Henry while he was Chancellor. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| b. Becket supported the Church when he was Archbishop. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| c. He was killed in the same year that he returned from France. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| d. Henry II punished the monks for Thomas's death. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| e. If you come to Canterbury, you can see Becket's bones. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

2 Can you answer these questions without looking back?

- What play did T.S. Eliot write?
- When did Becket become Archbishop of Canterbury?
- What words did Henry use about Becket?
- How many knights came to Canterbury?
- What did Henry wear on his feet when he came to Canterbury?
- Where can you see pictures of Becket's miracles?

3 Topic – National customs

Choose an article or a picture of a typical national custom/celebration in your country. Use it to talk about:

- How you should behave during this event. What the article or picture tells/shows us about how we should behave during the event.
- What visitors have to eat if they were invited. What a visitor would hear and see if they were invited. What a visitor should wear if they were invited.
- How and why it is performed/celebrated.



✠ PART THREE ✠

The Nun's Priest's Tale



‘We need a happy tale,’ said the Host, ‘something to make us laugh.’ He saw the Nun’s Priest hiding in the background. ‘Come, sir, tell us a tale. Your horse is thin and sick but I’m sure that you can tell a good story.’

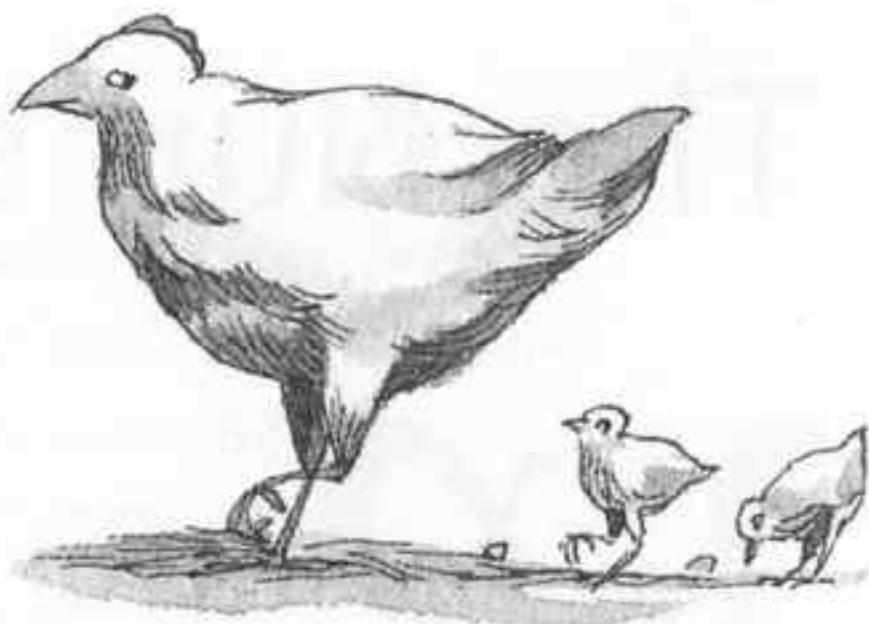
‘I will try to please you,’ said the Priest. ‘Now listen to my tale...’

Many years ago, in the magic time when all the birds and animals could speak and sing – or so I’ve heard – there was a poor widow who lived with her two daughters. She had three pigs, three cows and a sheep. She was a simple patient woman who worked hard and thanked God each day.

The Canterbury Tales

In her farmyard, she kept a cock called Chantecleer. He was well-known in the neighbourhood. His crowing¹ was more regular than a clock or a church bell. He was a very handsome bird. He had a red comb² on his head, a shining black beak,³ blue legs and golden feathers which shone⁴ like fire. He was the best and proudest cockerel that has ever lived.

There were seven hens in the yard with Chantecleer. The prettiest was called Lady Pertelot. She was polite, friendly and wise. She had loved Chantecleer since she was a seven-day-old chick and she was his favourite wife. When the sun rose in the morning, the two birds sang a love-song together. It was a golden time!



But one day, while he was sleeping in the middle of his seven wives, just before the sun rose, Chantecleer began to scream.

'Darling husband,' Pertelot said, 'what's the matter?'

'Madam,' he replied, 'I have had a terrible dream. I dreamt that a horrible monster wanted to catch me and eat me. He was

1. crowing : 公鸡发出喔喔的叫声。

2. comb : 鸡冠。

3. beak : 鸡喙。

4. shone : (shine, shone, shone) 发光。

The Nun's Priest's Tale

between yellow and red in colour. There were black tips¹ on his ears and tail. His bright eyes were fixed on me. His rows of teeth were sharp and white.'

'Don't be so afraid,' said Pertelot. 'You have lost my love. I cannot love a coward.² All women want strong, independent husbands, not cowards who are afraid of dreams.'

'But the dream is from God,' said Chantecleer.

'Nonsense. Dreams are nothing. All the best writers from the old times agree with me,' said the hen. 'Dreams are the result of eating too much late at night. That is all. Go to the chemist³ and get some medicine for your stomach. I'll find you some delicious, fresh worms⁴ to eat. Swallow⁵ them alive! After a day or two, you will have no more bad dreams. Trust your wife, dear Chantecleer.'

'Thank you, Madam,' said the cock, 'for your advice. But you are wrong. Listen to this story.'

Then Chantecleer told a story to prove that dreams come true.



1. tips : 尖端，尖儿。

2. coward : 懦夫。

3. chemist : 药剂师。

4. worms : 蠕虫。

5. swallow : 吞咽。

The Canterbury Tales

‘Once,’ he began, ‘there were two men who visited another town on a pilgrimage. There was a great crowd of pilgrims and it was difficult to find a place to stay in the town. So they decided to sleep in separate inns. During the night, one of the men had a dream. His friend was calling out to him. “Please help me! Thieves have murdered me. Look at the blood on my clothes and face. They have stolen my money and hidden my body in a dung cart.¹ Tomorrow morning, come to the west gate of the city. You will find me there.”’

Chantecleer paused. ‘It was a horrible dream, full of blood and terror, but the man went back to sleep until the morning. When he woke up, he went to meet his friend at the other inn. But the innkeeper told him that his friend had gone. Quickly, he ran to the west gate of the city. He saw a dung cart leaving the town. So he called the sheriff² and asked him to search the cart.

‘Is it necessary to tell you the end of the story, dear Pertelot? They found the murdered man in the cart. Murder will always come into the open.

‘There are many other stories about dreams, my dear wife. They must be true. You can read them in the best books, even the Bible! So don’t call me a coward.

‘And now, Madam, the sun is rising. Come to me and let us enjoy ourselves together. It is time for love.’

With these words, Chantecleer forgot the dream and flew down into the yard and all his hens flew after him.

‘Look at the great sun in the sky!’ Chantecleer crowed. ‘Cock-a-doodle-doo! It is the beginning of spring, my seven wives.

1. **dung cart** : 粪车。

2. **sheriff** : 行政长官。

The Nun's Priest's Tale

Oh Madam Pertelot, your beauty fills my heart. When I see how beautiful you are, I am not afraid. Cock-a-doodle-doo!’

But happiness always ends in sadness. There was a sly¹ fox with black tips on his ears and tail in the yard, under the vegetables, hiding like a murderer. He lay there until the middle of the day, waiting for the right time to run out and catch Chantecleer, the fat cock. He fixed his bright eyes on the delicious-looking² bird.

The cock followed his wife's advice. He ate some worms and walked proudly about the yard. Women are the reason for all the bad luck in the world. At least, that's what certain writers say. Not me. I don't believe it myself. Do you?

Pertelot and her sisters were lying in the warm sunlight. They washed their feathers and talked softly about love and food. Chantecleer walked freely and happily in the widow's farmyard, picking up worms and pieces of corn. Then suddenly, he saw the fox. It was the first time he had ever seen a fox but he was immediately afraid.

‘Sir,’ said the fox, ‘why are you running away? I am your great friend and admirer. I came here especially to hear you sing. I knew your father and mother. They also had wonderful voices. They gave me great pleasure, especially when they came to my home.’

Chantecleer was very happy and proud. The stranger liked his singing!

The stupid bird stood on his toes.³ He pushed up his neck

1. sly : 狡猾。

2. delicious-looking : 看似美味的。

3. toes : 脚趾。

The Canterbury Tales

towards the sky, puffed up¹ his chest, closed his eyes and opened his black, shining beak. He began to sing. But not for long!

It was all over² in a second!

The fox jumped. He caught Chantecleer by the neck, threw him over his back, and ran off towards the forest.

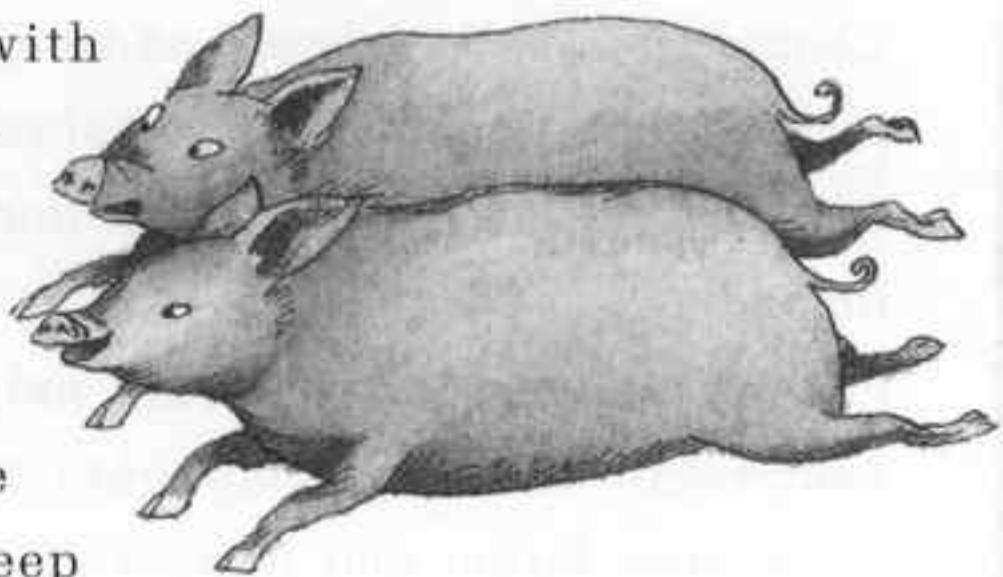
It was a terrible thing! Why had Chantecleer flown down into the yard? Why hadn't he stayed on the roof where he was safe? Why had his wife not believed in dreams? This great bird, the husband of seven wives, the handsomest creature in the world, the beautiful singer of morning love songs, is going to die! Greece lost its power. Rome burned. And Chantecleer, the cockerel, was stolen by a fox!

Pertelot and the hens screamed loudly. The widow ran out of her house and saw the fox. He was running towards the trees with Chantecleer over his shoulder.

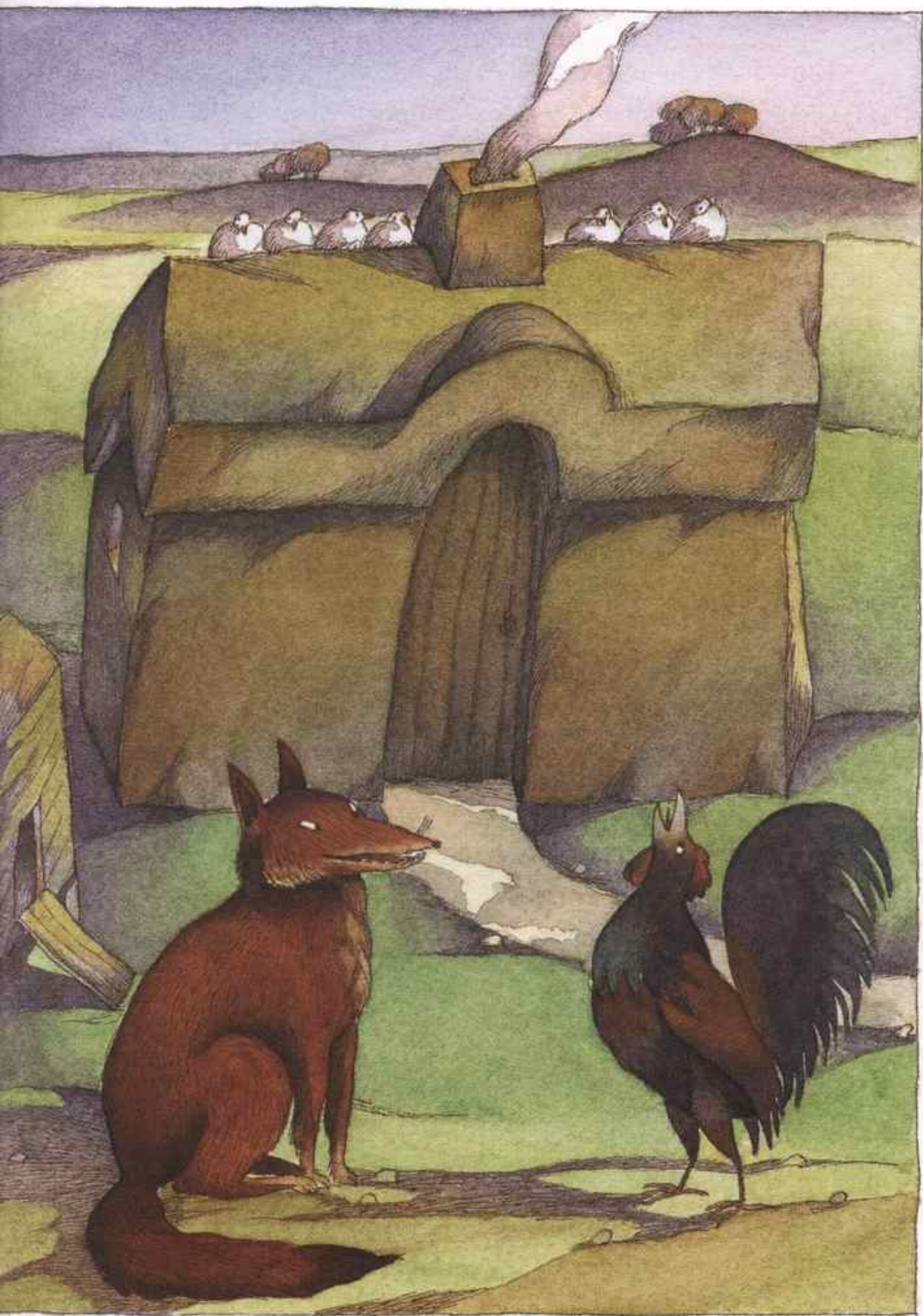
It was too late to stop him.

The widow, her two daughters, her servants with sticks, four dogs, the cook, the maid, even the cows, the sheep

and the pigs – all ran after the fox and Chantecleer the cockerel. Ducks flew up out of the pond, quacking.³ Bees buzzed in the air in a great swarm.⁴ The men blew trumpets⁵ and shouted like a great army. The earth shook and the sky seemed to fall.



-
1. puffed up : 使…膨胀 (充盈空气)。
 2. it was all over : 一切都结束了。
 3. quacking : 嘎嘎叫。
 4. swarm : 蜂群。
 5. trumpets : 喇叭。



G. Mauna

The Canterbury Tales

Now, luck changed.

Chantecleer spoke to the fox as they arrived in the forest. The fox's teeth were sharply round his neck but he could just talk. 'You are safe now, sir. These stupid people who are running after us will never catch you. Turn round and shout at them. "You idiots, I am cleverer than all of you! Did you think you could catch Reynard the fox? You can't stop me now. I'll eat this cock for my supper." Then they will respect you, sir.'

The fox answered. 'Yes, you're right.' He opened his mouth and spoke. 'Idiots! I am cleverer than all of you. I'll eat this....'

But as soon as Reynard opened his mouth, Chantecleer got free. He flew high into the trees and sat on a branch looking down at the fox.

'Oh, Chantecleer,' called the fox, 'why have you flown away? Did I frighten you? I'm sorry, sir. Come down and I'll explain. I was not going to eat you – I simply wanted to bring you to my home so that you could sing for me and my children.'

'No,' said the cock, 'I won't be a fool twice. I'll never close my eyes and sing again when there's a fox in the yard!'

'And I'll never open my mouth to speak empty words,' said the fox.

'And that is the end of my tale,' said the Nun's Priest. 'It's only a story of a fox, a cock and a hen but we can all learn a lesson from it.'

'It was a good story,' agreed the Host. 'Don't you wish you had seven wives, like the cock? But you are a priest and can have none.'

Comprehension and Opinion

1 How much did you understand?

- a. What animals and birds did the widow have?
- b. What did Chantecleer dream about?
- c. What did Pertelot and Chantecleer disagree about?
- d. Why did the fox come to the farmyard?
- e. What happened when Chantecleer closed his eyes to sing?
- f. What happened when the fox opened his mouth to speak?

2 What do you think?

Do dreams come true?
 Does all the bad luck in the world come from women?
 Does the story teach us anything?

Animals and Birds

3 Here are the names of sixteen creatures.

alligator ant beetle cod crocodile dove
 housefly goldfish human being lion lizard
 pigeon shark sparrow spider whale

Divide them into five groups of three under these headings:

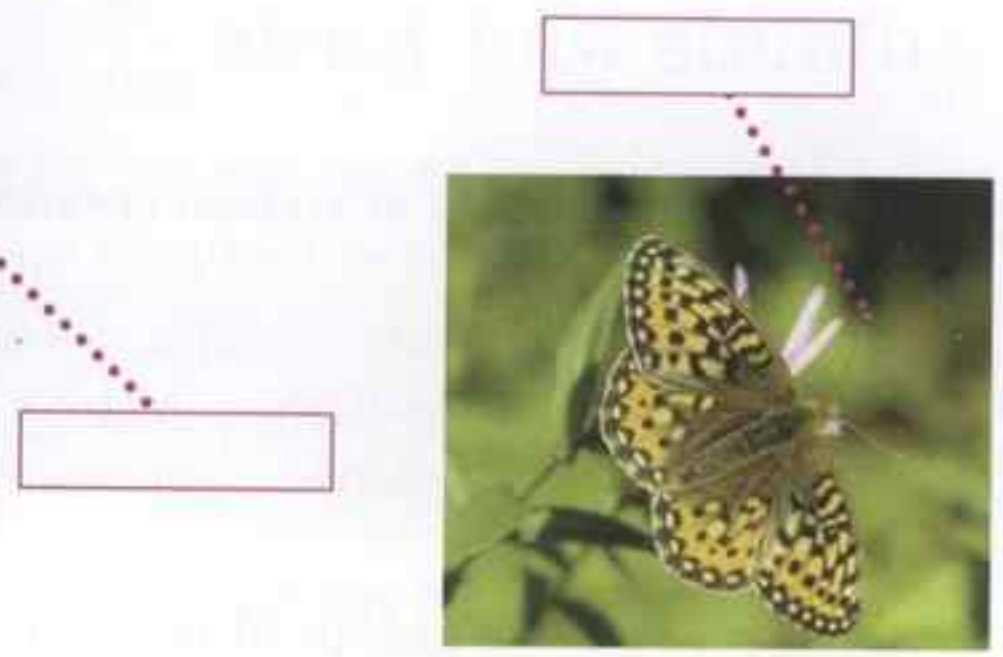
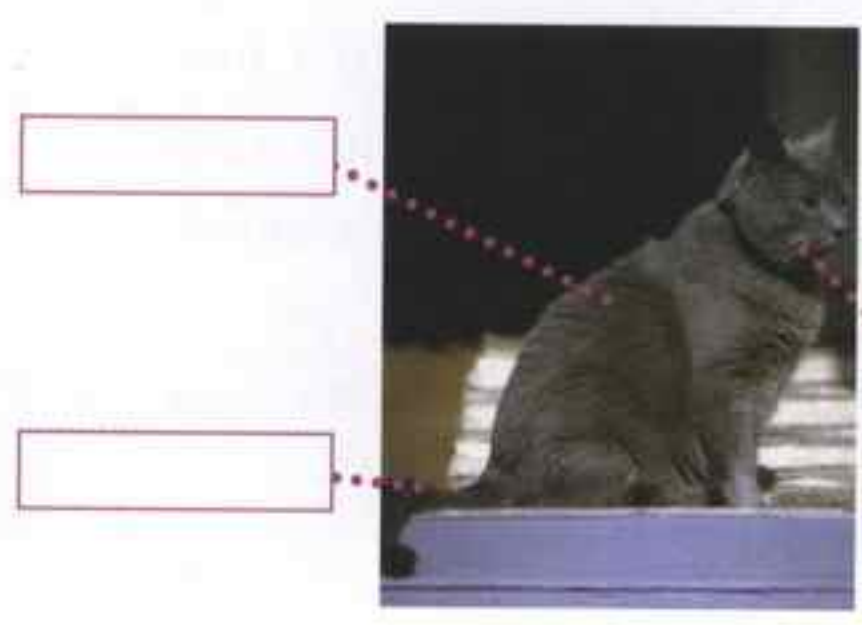
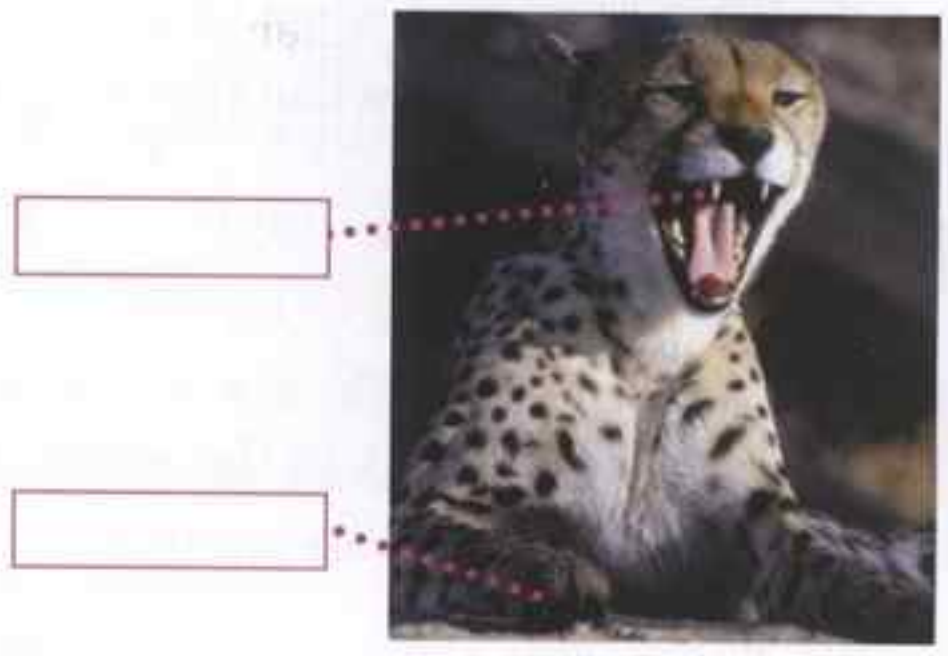
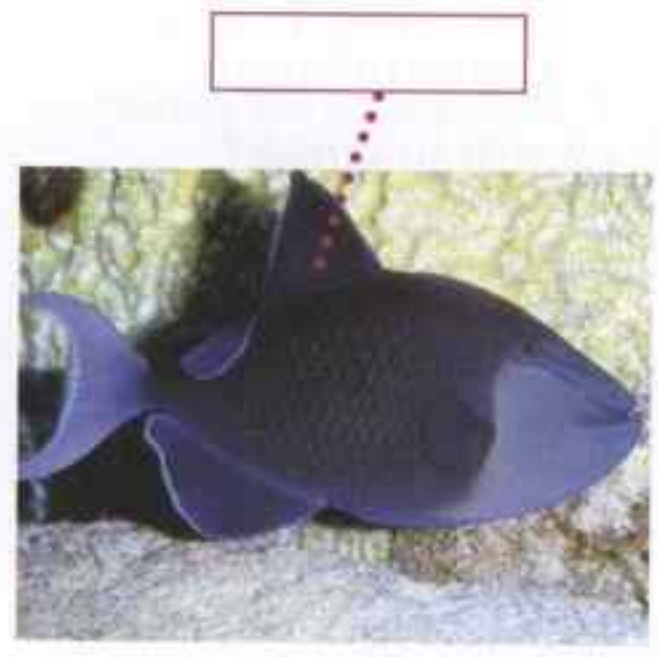
Birds	Fish	Insects	Mammals	Reptiles
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....

Which creature belongs to none of these groups?
 Can you add more names to each group? Use a dictionary if necessary.

Look at these names of parts of creatures:

antennae beak claws comb fangs feathers
fins fur scales tail whiskers wings

Write them in the correct places on the pictures.



The Dream of Drowning

4 You will hear another story about a dream: for questions 1-10 complete the sentences.

1. Chantecleer told Pertolot some more
2. Two merchants wanted to cross
3. They waited in the port until the
4. One of the travellers was worried because he had
.....
5. He wanted to
6. His friend said that he wasn't afraid
7. The friend decided to go to France and
8. But during the journey there was
9. The ship sank and every
10. If Pertolot knew more history she wouldn't
.....

Past Simple and Past Perfect

When we are writing about the past, we can use the Past Perfect form of a verb to show that one action happened before another action. For example:

FIRST: Palamon escaped from prison.

THEN: He went to the forest.

After Palamon had escaped from prison, he went to the forest.

- 5** Here are some sentences about the story of the cock, the hen and the fox. In each sentence use one suitable verb in the Past Simple and one suitable verb in the Past Perfect. You can use verbs from this list. Some verbs can be used more than once.

to be to close to come to fly to have to love
to open to reach to recover to steal to stop
to seize to tell to thank to walk to want

- a. But when Chantecleer his eyes to sing, the fox him.
- b. After he from the shock of the dream, he around the farmyard.
- c. The fox running when he the forest.
- d. Pertelot Chantecleer since she a young chick.
- e. One morning, Chantecleer his wife that he a terrible dream.
- f. The cock up into the trees after the fox his mouth.
- g. The fox Chantecleer that he to the farmyard to hear him sing.
- h. After the priest his tale, the Host him.
- i. Everyone to catch the fox who Chantecleer.

Put the sentences in the correct order by writing the letters (a-i) in the boxes:

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

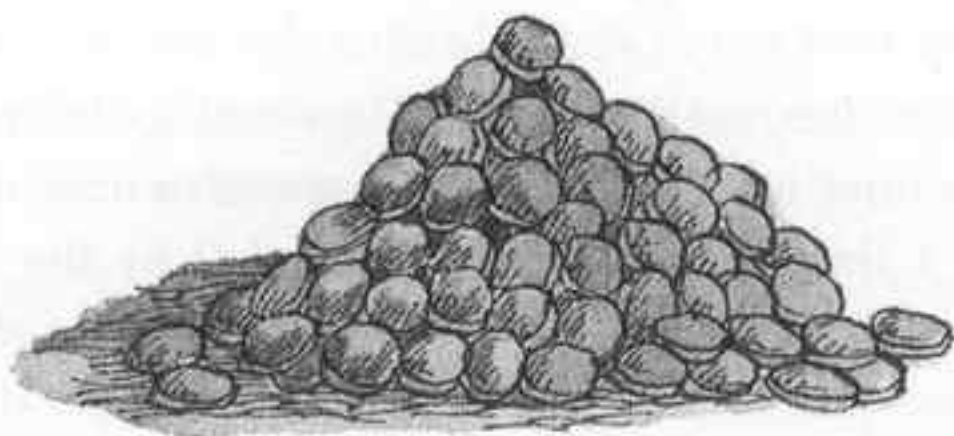
Now write a summary of the story. You can use some of these sentences but you need to add more.

Writing – Strange Dreams

6 For questions 1-26, read the text below and look carefully at each line. Some of the lines are correct, and some have a word which should not be there. If a line is correct, put a tick (✓) by the number below. If a line has a word which should not be there, write the word next to the number. There are two examples at the beginning (0 and 00).

COMMON DREAMS AND THEIR MEANINGS

There are many common dreams that most people have.	0. ✓
Dreams that you are falling, that you are <u>not</u> naked in a public place, or of losing your teeth are all dreams shared out by a lot of people. To dream that you are taking an exam, for example, indicates that you are being put to the test or being scrutinised in some way. Dreams in that your teeth are falling out are one of the most of common dreams.	00. <i>not</i>
Such dreams are not only horrifying and shocking, but often leave the dreamer with out a lasting image of the dream. One theory about such dreams is that they reflect on your anxiety about your appearance and how others see you. Another explanation is they reflect your fear of being embarrassed or making a fool of yourself in to some specific situation. Flying dreams fall under a category of dreams where you become aware of that you are dreaming, known as lucid dreaming. Many dreamers have described the ability to fly in their dreams as an exhilarating, and joyful, and liberating experience. Flying with ease and looking down towards the landscape below, suggests that you are not on top of a situation or that you have risen above something. It may be also mean that you have gained a different perspective on things. If you are feeling fear when you are flying and or you feel that you are flying too high, then as it suggests that you are afraid of challenges and of success. It is quite fascinating how ever people from different backgrounds and different experiences can share these common themes. The human mind has the ability to generate a myriad of images, yet we can have to such similar dreams.	1.
	2.
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	26.



✠ PART FOUR ✠

The Pardoner's Tale



ne day, the Pardoner got drunk and told us all his secrets.

‘I go into the churches and speak to the people.

“You are all good people. But if anyone has stolen money from his neighbour or cheated¹ her husband with another man, they will go to Hell. But if you give me money, I will forgive you in the name of God.”

‘Then they all hurry to give me gold. Who knows what happens after they die? – I don’t care if they go to Heaven or Hell. I just want their money. Even the poor widow has something to give me. I have enough gold to buy a drink of wine and a girl in every town.

‘But even a bad man like me can tell a good story. Listen to my tale.’

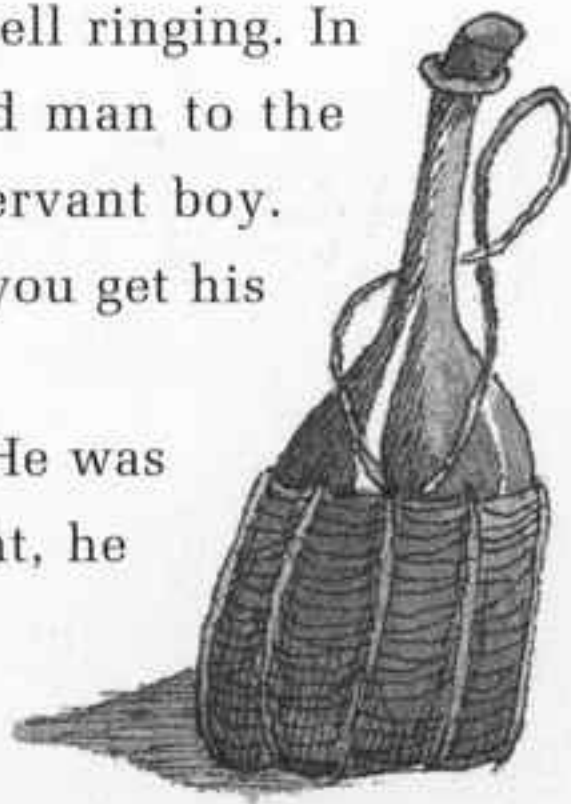
1. **cheated** : 欺骗，不忠实于。

The Pardoner's Tale

Some years ago, there was a group of young men who lived very badly. They danced and played music all day long. They loved eating and drinking, and afterwards they ran after the women of the town. Above all, they loved gambling.¹ They lived in a time of broken promises and lies and swearing.²

I am going to tell you about three of these bad young men. One Sunday they were sitting in a tavern,³ drinking heavily instead of going to church. They heard a bell ringing. In the street, the people were taking a dead man to the churchyard. One of the men called the servant boy. 'Go and find out who has died. Make sure you get his name correctly.'

'I can tell you his name,' said the boy. 'He was one of your friends. But suddenly last night, he was killed. He was sitting at the table, completely drunk, when a silent thief named Death came and stabbed⁴ him in the heart. Then the killer went away without a



word. Death kills all of us round here. He has killed a thousand during the Plague. Be careful if you meet him, sirs. You see him everywhere you go. That's what my mother told me. It's all I know.'

The host of the tavern agreed. 'The boy's right. This year, Death killed everyone in a large village near here. Every man, woman and child was killed, the lords and the poor men. Death lives not far away. He's always appearing among us.'

1. gambling : 賭博。

2. swearing : (swear, swore, sworn) 咒罵。

3. tavern : 酒館。

4. stabbed : 用刀捅死。

The Canterbury Tales

'Great God, I'm not afraid!' said one of the young men. 'I'll look for this murderer, Death, in every street. I'll make a promise now. My brothers, let's drink together. We three are one! Death has killed our friends. Now, we will kill him before the day is finished!'

The three men stood up and drank. 'We will live and die for one another,' they promised. 'We are all brothers!' They went out of the tavern, completely drunk, and went towards the village where everyone had been killed. 'If we catch him, then Death is dead!'

On the way, they met a very old, very poor man. He was wrapped¹ in old clothes so that they could hardly² see his face. He greeted them politely. 'God be with you, my lords.'

'Get out of our way, you old fool,' said the leader of the men. 'Why do you live such a long time? It's time for an old man like you to die!'

'I have been all over the world, as far as India,' said the old man, 'but I cannot find a young man who will change his life for mine. So I live as an old man until God decides that I should die.'

'Not even Death will take my life. So, like a prisoner in this world, I wait for my freedom. The earth is my mother. I knock on her gate with my stick and cry: Dear Mother! Let me in! Look at me! I am growing thinner every day. Wrap me in a sheet and take me into my grave! But she refuses to help me. So my face is white and my bones ache.'

The old man looked at the leader. 'You spoke very rudely to me just now. That is wrong. It says in the Bible that you should respect an old man with white hair. Don't hurt me, but treat me kindly so that, when you are old yourself, people will respect

1. wrapped : 包裹着。

2. hardly : 几乎不。



G. Manno

The Canterbury Tales

you. Now let me pass. I must go where I must go.'

'No, old fool, you cannot escape from us so easily.' said the leader. 'You spoke about Death a few moments ago. Death has killed all our friends in this place. You are one of his spies! Tell us where he is or you'll pay for it. You are certainly one of Death's gang¹ who plan to kill all the young people. You wicked thief!'

'Well, sirs, if you really want to find Death, follow this crooked² path towards that forest. I left him there, under a tree. Can you see the oak? He's waiting for you there, I'm sure. He's not afraid of rude young men like you. Now God be with you and help you to become good.'

The three men ran down the crooked path towards the tree while the old man stood and watched. Then he continued on his journey.

What did they find under the tree? A huge pile of new gold coins!

They had never seen so much gold. They immediately forgot all about Death when they saw the shining money. It made them very happy.

The leader spoke first. 'Brothers, listen to me carefully. I have a plan. Luck has given us this treasure so that we can live happily and luxuriously³ for the rest of our lives. We'll spend it all on pleasure. We didn't expect this to be our lucky day.

'We must take the gold away to my house as soon as possible. Or one of your houses. Brothers, we know that it is our gold. God has given it to us to make us happy. But we mustn't take it by day. People will think we are thieves. They will hang us because

1. gang : 同党。

2. crooked : 弯弯曲曲的。

3. luxuriously : 极舒适地。

The Pardoner's Tale

of our treasure. We must take it away secretly at night. Therefore, one of us must go to the town to get bread and wine for us all while the others stay and look after the treasure. He must go quickly and secretly. Then, when it is dark, we will carry the gold to one of our houses. What do you think?’

They all agreed. They drew lots ¹ and the youngest ran off to the town to get bread and wine. The other two stayed under the tree with the gold.

As soon as the youngest one had gone, the leader talked to the other. ‘You are my true brother. We can help each other. You know that our companion has gone to the town. And here’s a huge pile of gold which we will divide among the three of us. But if we divided it between two, that would be better for both of us. Do you agree, friend?’

‘That’s impossible,’ said the other. ‘He knows that we have the gold. If we take it all, how can we explain it to him?’

‘Do you agree or not?’ asked the first one. ‘I can tell you my plan in a few words if you are interested.’

‘Tell me. I will support you.’

‘Well, we are two and he is only one. We are stronger than him. When he comes back, begin to wrestle ² with him – he will think it is a game. Then I will come up secretly behind him and stab him in the back while you are fighting. Do the same. Stick your knife in his chest. Then, my dear friend, we will divide all this gold between the two of us, like brothers.’

So these two criminals decided to kill the third one as soon as he returned.

1. **drew lots** : (draw, drew, drawn) 抽签。

2. **wrestle** : 摔跤。

The Canterbury Tales

But the youngest was also thinking about the gold as he ran to town. The shining coins were beautiful and bright. 'Oh God,' he thought, 'I would like all this gold for myself. No one would be as happy as I would be then.'

The Devil¹ put an idea in his head. 'I will poison my two companions,' he thought. He did not feel sorry for his friends. He only thought about the gold.

Immediately, he went to a chemist in the town. 'I need some poison to kill rats,' he said. 'Also, there's an animal which is killing my chickens at home. I must poison it.'

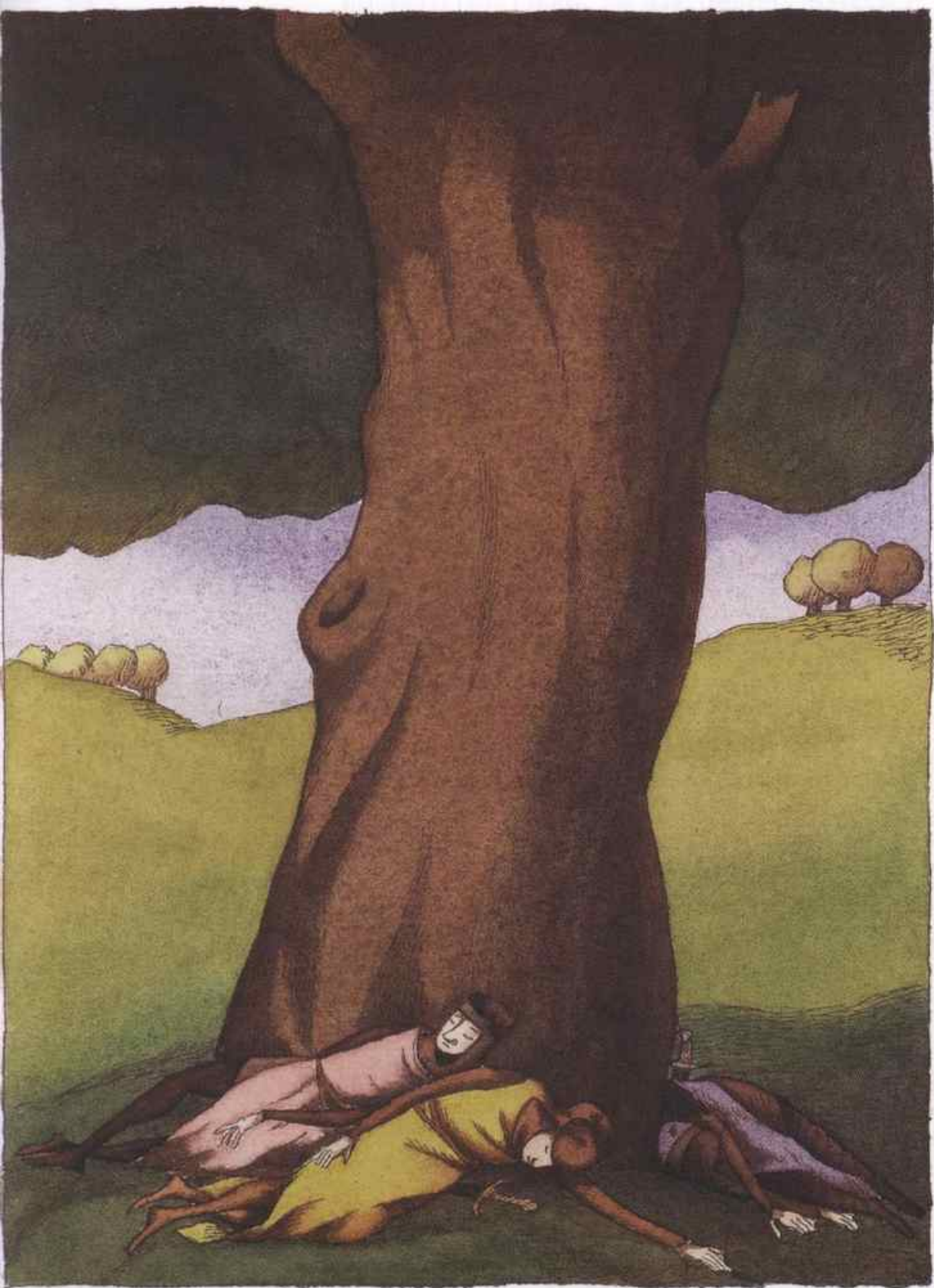
The chemist replied, 'I'll give you the strongest poison that I have. There is nobody, man or animal, that can take this poison and live. The smallest bit is enough to kill a man in a few minutes.'

The young man took the box of poison and left. He went to a shop in the next street and bought three bottles. He put the poison in two of the bottles but not in the third. He would drink from that bottle and enjoy the gold after his companions were dead. Then he filled the bottles with wine and went back to the tree.

I am near the end of my story. As they had agreed, the two other men killed the youngest one as soon as he returned with the wine. Then they sat down. 'Now let's sit and drink before we bury his body.'

The leader took one of the bottles, drank, and passed it to his friend who also drank. It was the poisoned wine. In a few minutes, all three were on the ground under the tree, ready for the rats and worms to eat them. They had found Death!

1. the Devil : 魔鬼。



Comprehension and Opinion

1 What happened in The Pardoner's Tale?

- a. Why was the bell ringing in the street?
- b. What did the men decide to do?
- c. Where did the old man say they could find Death?
- d. How did they treat the old man?
- e. What did they find under the tree?
- f. Why did the youngest man go to the town?
- g. How did the three men die?
- h. Who do you think the old man was?
- i. Do you think the men deserved to die?
- j. Do you think there are men like these in our society today?

The First and Second Conditional

When the leader of the men first had the idea of murder, he thought:

A: If we *killed* him, we *would have* more money for ourselves.

Later, when the plan was more fixed, he thought:

B: If we *kill* him, we *will have* more money for ourselves.

Look at A:

If	+	PAST SIMPLE VERB	CONDITIONAL VERB
		<i>killed</i>	<i>would have</i>

This is a second conditional sentence. The murder is just a dream. We use the second conditional, when we are imagining something which is not real or not possible in the present. For example:

If I won a million pounds, I would buy a palace.

Look at B:

If	+	PRESENT SIMPLE VERB	FUTURE VERB
		<i>kill</i>	<i>will have</i>

This is a first conditional sentence. The plan to kill him is real. The murder is possible!

2 Now study these situations and, for each one, write a first or a second conditional sentence.

- a. Tom has no car. His dream is to drive from England to China.
Tom thinks: 'If I
- b. Tom has asked Susan to marry him. She will probably say 'yes'.
They both want a lot of children.
Tom thinks:
- c. Pete has just met Jane. He doesn't know her very well. But he
dreams about marrying her and travelling round the world with her.
Pete thinks:
- d. Cambridge United are playing an important football match soon.
Dan has bet a thousand pounds that they win. Cambridge have
lost their last six matches.
Dan thinks:
- e. Anne wants to work as a doctor in Africa. She is studying very hard
for her final medical examinations next year. She is very intelligent.
Anne thinks:
- f. Gerry and Olivia want to rob the bank. They need money to go to
the United States. But the bank is very well protected.
They think:
- g. Gerry and Olivia find another bank. There are no guards. It is
easy to break in.
They think:
- h. The bank clerk, Mr Jones, is a coward. Gerry and Olivia ask him
to give them the key to the safe. They are carrying guns.
Mr Jones thinks:
- i. Gerry and Olivia are very confident. 'We are the best bank robbers
in the world!' The police want to catch them and send them to
prison for twenty years.
Gerry and Olivia think: 'If the police
- j. Miss Timms hates criminals. She is near the alarm in the bank.
She is not afraid of Gerry and Olivia.
She thinks:

- 3** Here are clues to fourteen words. All the words are connected with death! Complete the words. Each dash represents a letter.

- | | | | |
|--|---|---|-------|
| a. A box for a dead body | | C | ----- |
| b. The three men were... | M | | ----- |
| c. Another word for 'b' | K | | ----- |
| d. A place for dead people | C | | ----- |
| e. Another name for 'd' | G | | ----- |
| f. This person arranges 'j' | U | | ----- |
| g. 'k' is made up of these | B | | ----- |
| h. A place for 'b' after they die | H | | ----- |
| i. This symbolises pirates or poison | S | | ----- |
| j. A religious service for a dead person | F | | ----- |
| k. The hardest part of our bodies | S | | ----- |
| l. 'b' don't go here after they die | P | | ----- |
| m. The colour of death | B | | ----- |
| n. Dogs do this with 'g' | B | | ----- |

Now read vertically straight down from the letter C in the first word. The letters spell a well-known saying in English.

C _ _ _ _ S _ ' _ P _ _

The Merchant's Tale



- 4** Listen to the Merchant's Tale. For questions 1-9, tick (✓) the best answers (A, B or C).

1. The Knight was called

- A ☐ February.
 B ☐ January.
 C ☐ July.

2. May was
A ☐ young and beautiful.
B ☐ young and rich.
C ☐ rich and old.
3. May was in love with
A ☐ January.
B ☐ Damian.
C ☐ her servant.
4. January became more jealous of May because
A ☐ he was blind.
B ☐ he held her hand.
C ☐ he knew she loved Damian.
5. May managed to be with Damian by
A ☐ leaving her husband in the garden.
B ☐ climbing into a pear tree.
C ☐ kissing her husband passionately.
6. Who gave January his sight back?
A ☐ May.
B ☐ Damian.
C ☐ The gods.
7. January saw May
A ☐ fighting Damian in the tree.
B ☐ kissing Damian in the tree.
C ☐ talking to the doctor.
8. May told January that
A ☐ he made a mistake.
B ☐ she loved Damian.
C ☐ she was kissing a young man.
9. What happened to Damian?
A ☐ He fell out of the tree.
B ☐ He escaped.
C ☐ He had pears for supper.

A Good Story

- 5** Many people think that *The Pardoner's Tale* is the best story in *The Canterbury Tales*. Do you agree?

Good stories usually have four important parts:

PLOT

The plot is the plan of the story. If the end of the story surprises us or if the story is cleverly planned, we usually enjoy the story more.

CHARACTERS

If the characters are well described or have recognisable personalities, it makes the story more interesting.

THEMES

The themes are the ideas of the story. One of the themes of the *Pardoner's Tale* is death, another is human selfishness and greed.

STYLE

Style is the way that the writer uses language and images to tell the story.

Think about the films or plays you have seen and the books you have read. What is one of the best stories you know? Write a summary of the story by answering these questions:

- a. Where and when did it take place?
- b. Who were the most important characters?
- c. How did it begin?
- d. What were the most important things which happened?
- e. How did it end?
- f. Why did you enjoy it?

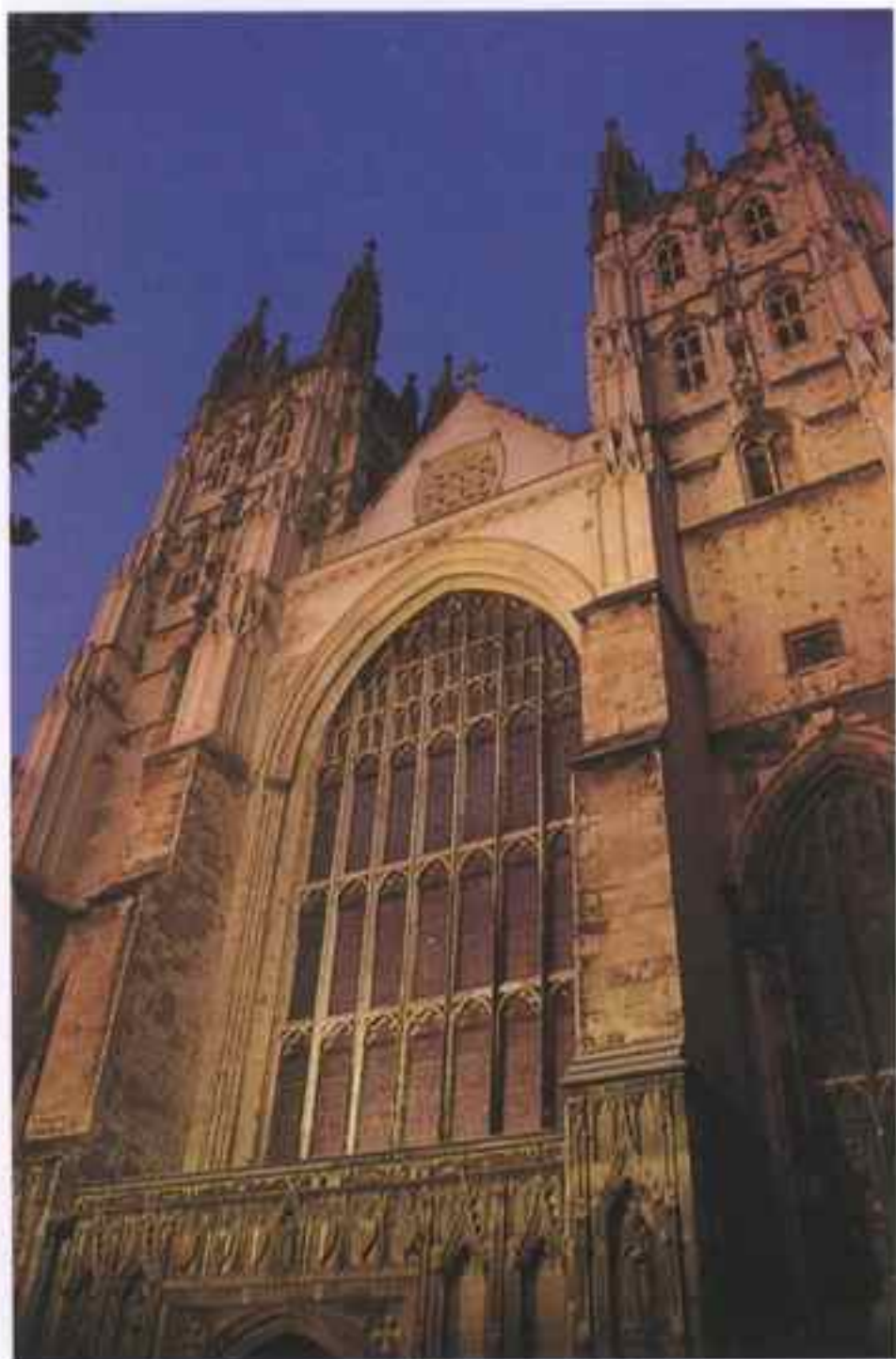
The City of Canterbury

Canterbury is the city of Becket's murder and of Chaucer's pilgrims. But it has a far longer history. There was an Iron Age settlement on the River Stour, Canterbury's small but important river, and Julius Caesar fought a battle against the Britons near Canterbury. The Romans built a walled city and named it Durovernum Cantiacorum.

Perhaps the most important event in Canterbury's history took place in 597 AD. Saint Augustine arrived from Rome. He met King Ethelbert, the most powerful ruler in England, and his

Christian wife, Queen Bertha. As a result, Ethelbert and his people became Christians. Saint Augustine's Abbey was established and a cathedral was built. Canterbury became the religious centre of England.

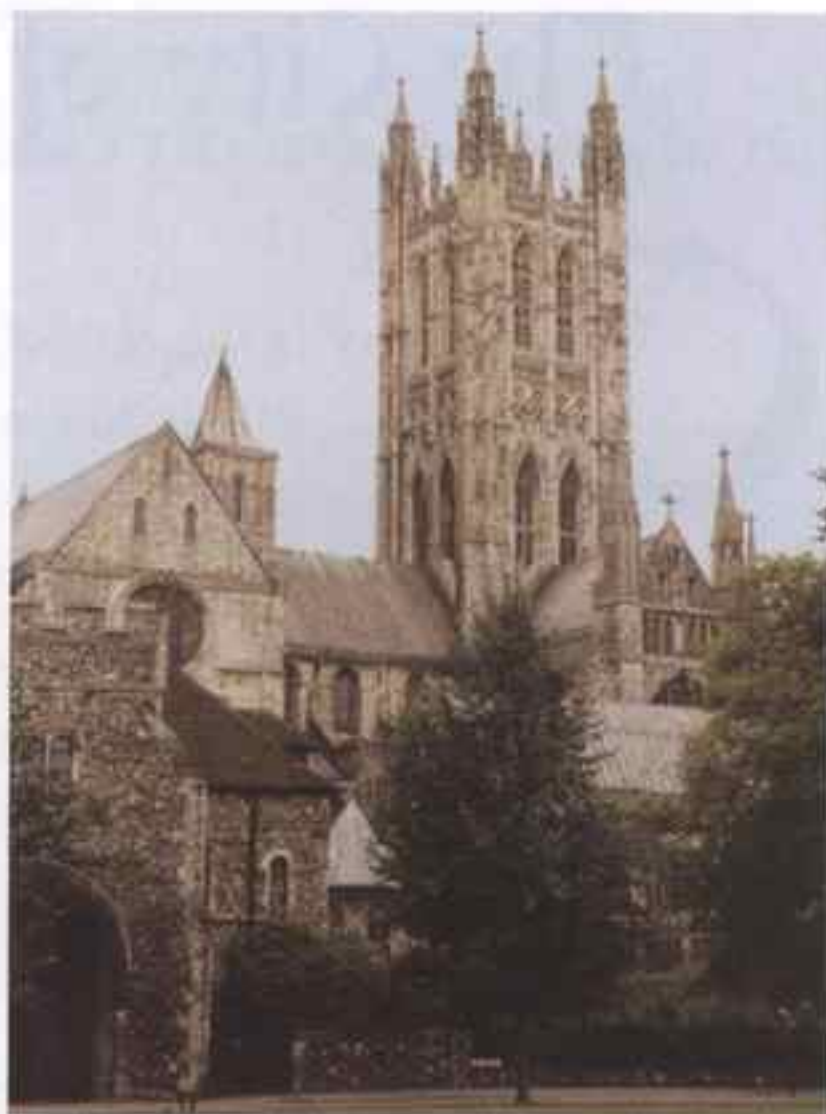
The Cathedral is of course the most important building in the city. It has developed over many centuries with different



A view of the Canterbury Cathedral.

architectural ¹ styles from Norman (Romanesque) to Victorian (19th century). The main part of the cathedral, however, is Gothic with a fine central tower called Bell Harry. Canterbury lies in a valley ² so that when the pilgrims came down the hills towards it, they must have seen the cathedral dominating ³ the view.

A view of the Bell Harry tower.

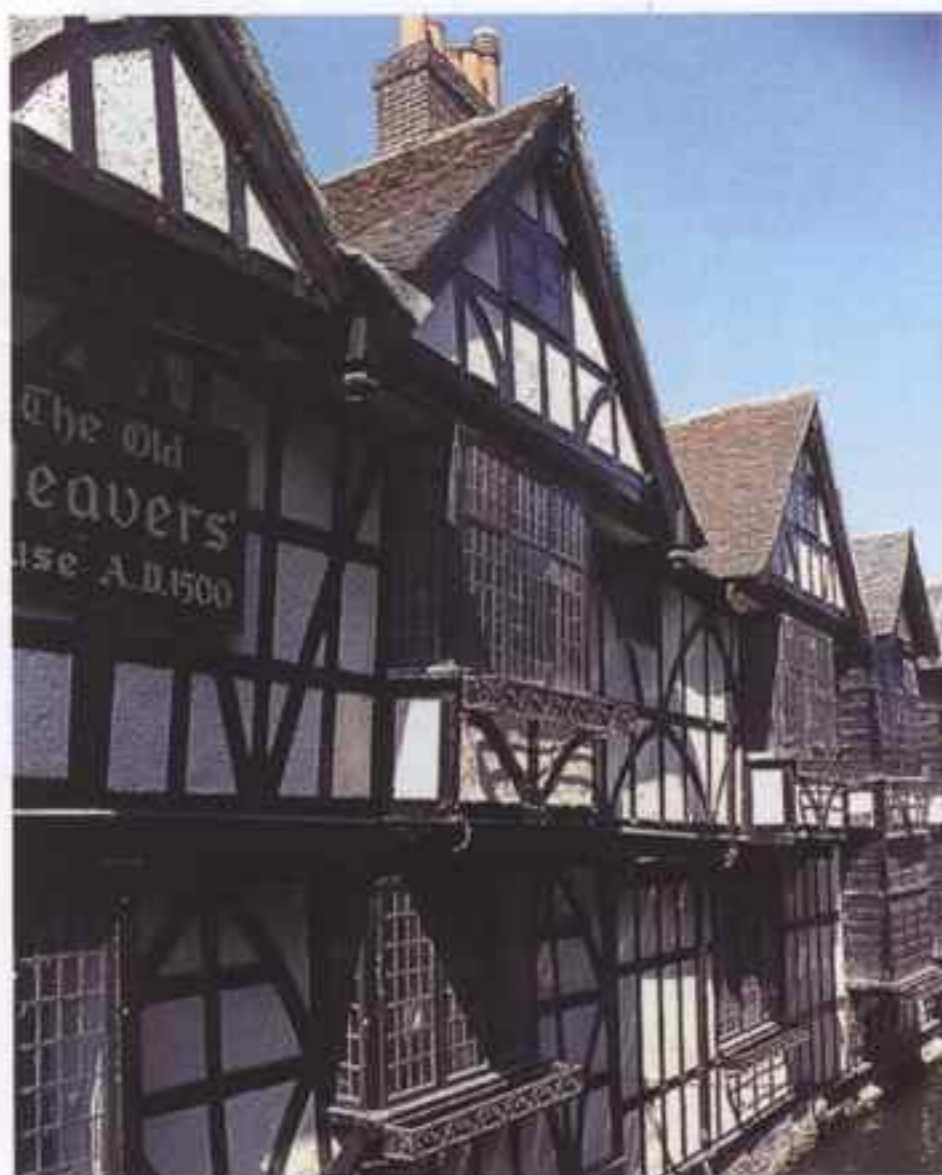


There are many buildings which date from the time of the pilgrims. You can see the Eastbridge Hospital and the Poor Priests Hospital where pilgrims could rest. There are two important monasteries ⁴ on the river. Blackfriars was the home of the Dominicans who wore black and

A XVth century building nowadays used as a public house.

1. architectural : 建筑的。
2. valley : 山谷。
3. dominating : 控制。
4. monasteries : 修道院。

Greyfriars was the home of the first Franciscans to come to England. An area just outside the city walls is called Wincheap which means 'wine market'. Pilgrims could buy wine there before they entered the religious heart of Canterbury where alcohol was not sold. But today there are as many pubs as churches in the city centre.



The Old Weavers' House and the River Stour.

The city has many other sights. King's School, just behind the cathedral, is the oldest 'public school'¹ in Britain. The medieval city walls have been re-built and one of the city gates, the Westgate with its two strong towers, remains. Saint Martin's church has the longest history of any church in England. The sixteenth century 'Weavers' House' is a fine wooden building near the river. However, Canterbury was badly bombed during the Second World War.

The Cathedral was undamaged but a large part of the historic city was lost.

You can still easily imagine Chaucer's pilgrims in Canterbury. The Pardoner and the Summoner hurried away to look for victims who would give them money. The Host and the Miller drank together in Wincheap. The Knight went to thank God for his victories in the

1. public school : 公学 (在英国, 公学是私立的)。

Cathedral while his son, the Squire, walked along the bank of the River Stour with his chosen girl. The Merchant went to do business in Mercery Lane and the Wife of Bath searched for her sixth husband among the many pilgrims in the crowded city. They had arrived!



View of Christchurch Gate, the main entrance to the cathedral precincts,¹ seen from Mercery Lane.

1 Are these sentences true (T) or false (F)? Correct the false ones.

- | | T | F |
|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| a. There was an Iron Age cathedral at Canterbury. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| | | |
| b. Saint Augustine succeeded in making the King a Christian. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| | | |

1. precincts : 区域。

c. The Cathedral is mainly Norman and Victorian in style.

☐ ☐

.....

d. Canterbury is on a hill so that it can be seen from far away.

☐ ☐

.....

e. The buildings from Chaucer's time were destroyed by bombs.

☐ ☐

.....

f. There are walls around the city.

☐ ☐

.....

g. There are two strong city gates which still stand.

☐ ☐

.....

h. The Wife of Bath got married in Canterbury.

☐ ☐

.....

2 Topic – Village and city life

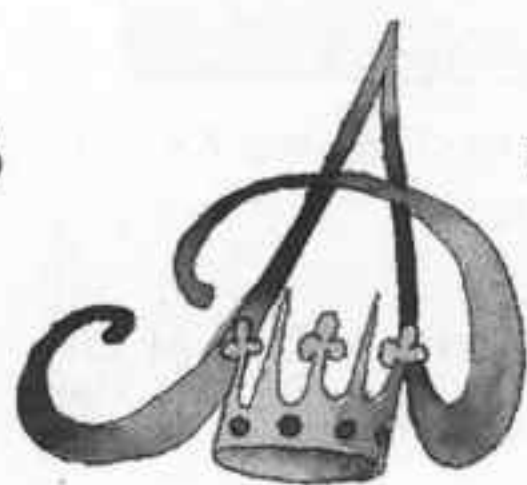
Choose a picture or an article about your favourite village or city in your country. Use it to talk about:

1. Why you chose it. Why it is your favourite village or city.
2. Its origins. The origins of this place.
3. The advantages and disadvantages of the place. What you would like/dislike about living in this place.
4. How it compares with other villages/cities in your country. How life in this village or city compares with life in the place you live now.



✠ PART FIVE ✠

The Wife of Bath's Tale



long time ago, when King Arthur ruled the land, there was a great knight who loved all the pleasures of life. But one day, a lady of the court told the King that the knight had attacked her.

Arthur was very angry and said that the knight must die. 'Cut off his head!' But the Queen and her ladies asked Arthur to give the knight to them for punishment. To please his queen, Arthur agreed.

The Queen sent for the knight. 'I and my ladies have the power to let you live or die,' she said. 'You will live only if you can answer this question: What is it that women most desire? If you cannot tell us at this moment, you may go away for a year and a

The Wife of Bath's Tale

day to find the answer. But if you return without the answer, remember this: the axe is sharp!

The knight was very unhappy but he had no choice. He said goodbye to the Queen and rode away.

He travelled through the whole country, from coast to coast, looking for the answer. He knocked on every door. 'What is it that women most desire?' he asked. But he could not find two people who agreed.

'Women want to be rich.'

'No, they want a good reputation.'

'No, they want pleasure.'

'They want fine clothes.'

'They want a life of love with many husbands.'

'Women want to be spoilt and flattered.'¹

'Women want freedom, with nobody to criticise them.'

'Women want people to say that they can keep a secret.'

That is nonsense, of course. No woman can keep a secret. Do you remember the ancient tale of King Midas? Midas grew a splendid pair of donkey's ears under his long hair. Nobody knew except his wife. Midas loved her and made her promise that she wouldn't tell anyone about his ears. Of course, she promised but, because she was a woman, it was difficult to keep the secret. It wanted to fly out of her mouth.

'I must tell somebody,' she thought. So, she ran down to the lake, her heart on fire. She lay down among the river grasses and whispered the secret to the water. 'My husband has a pair of

1. flattered : 恭维。

The Canterbury Tales

donkey's ears.' The wind spread the secret through the whole country. We women are all like that.

Well, the knight realised that he would never find the answer. He felt sad and hopeless. The year had finished and this was the day when he had to return to the Queen.

As he was riding sadly back to the court through the forest, he suddenly saw twenty-four beautiful women dancing on the green grass. 'Perhaps they know the answer,' he thought. He approached them but, as he did so, they vanished¹ from his sight. It had been a magic vision. Remember that, in the days of King Arthur, there were still fairies in the world.

There was no living thing in the forest except an old woman sitting on the grass where they had danced. She was the ugliest, most horrible creature he had ever seen.

This ugly hag² stood up and said, 'Sir knight, there is no path here. Tell me, what are you looking for? Perhaps I can help. We old people know many things.'

'Old lady, I will die today unless I can answer this question. What is it that women most desire? If you can tell me, I'll pay you well.'

'Give me your hand,' said the hag. 'Promise me that, if I give you the true answer, you will do anything that I ask.'

'I promise,' agreed the knight.

'Then your life is safe. The Queen herself will agree with my answer. The proudest lady that ever wore beautiful clothes will admit that I am right. Let me teach you the answer.' And the old woman whispered in his ear.

1. vanished : 消失。

2. hag : 丑陋老太婆。



G. Manno

The Canterbury Tales

When they came to the Queen's court, the knight said, 'I am ready to give my answer.'

The Queen and all her ladies were there. There were single women and wives and many widows, who are the wisest of all. The knight was the only man, surrounded¹ by women. 'Speak!' said the Queen who sat like a judge. 'Silence everyone. Listen to the knight.'

The knight spoke loudly so that all the ladies could hear. 'My sweet Queen,' he said, 'women desire to have power over their husbands. This is your greatest desire. Kill me if you like but this is the true answer.'

There was no woman in the court, not a girl or a wife or a widow, who disagreed with him. 'You may keep your life!' said the Queen.

At that moment, the old hag jumped up and spoke. 'Oh powerful Queen,' she said, 'before you go, give me justice. I taught the knight how to answer. In return, he said that he would do whatever I asked him. Therefore, before this court, I ask you, sir knight, to marry me. I have saved your life; now do this for me.'

The knight answered unhappily. 'I know that I promised you this. But please change your request. I will give you everything I have but let my body be mine.'

'No! I am ugly and old and poor. But I do not want gold or land or luxuries. I want to be your wife and, more than that, I want to be your love!'

'My love? That is impossible.'

But the knight could not escape. He married the hag secretly

1. surrounded : 包围。



The Canterbury Tales

next day and hid himself for the rest of the day. There was no dancing, no singing or eating and drinking at their wedding.

That night, he lay in bed with her. He turned to and fro¹ like someone with a bad dream, keeping as far away from her as possible.

His old wife lay there smiling. 'Dear husband, does every one of King Arthur's knights behave like this with his bride? I am your own sweet wife. I have saved your life. I have never done anything bad to you. Why do you behave like this on our first night together? Tell me the problem and I will make it right.'

'Make it right? No, impossible. You are so ugly, so old, and you come from such a low family, that I don't want to be near you.'

'Is that all? If you treat me well, I can make this right in three short days. But why do you worry about my family? Don't you know that true gentlewomen and true gentlemen are the ones who do good things. Lords and ladies can become thieves and murderers and cheats.² But a poor man or woman can be a true gentle-person if he or she loves God and other human beings.

'Then you say that I am poor. There is nothing wrong in that. Jesus himself chose to live as a poor man. I think that the poor man is rich, even if he has no shirt. The poor man can always find a song to sing. He is not afraid of thieves. He loves God. He knows that his friends love him for himself and not for his money. It is good to be poor, I think.

'Lastly, you said that I am old and ugly. But you know that all the best writers tell us to respect old people. And if I'm ugly, you needn't be afraid that I will cheat you with another man. But I know what men like. I will give you great pleasure.

1. turned to and fro : 翻来覆去。

2. cheats : 骗子。

The Wife of Bath's Tale

'Now, choose one of these two things. You can have me old and ugly until I die. I will be a true wife to you and never upset you as long as I live. Or you can have me young and beautiful. But then men will visit your house while you are away because I am so beautiful. Now choose. Which do you want?'

The knight thought about this for a long time. It made him very unhappy. At last, he spoke.

'My lady and my love, my darling wife, I put myself in your power. Choose yourself. You are wise enough to know which way is the best for you and for me. I don't care what you decide. If you are pleased, then I am also happy.'

'Are you really giving me the power to choose? Will you do as I say?'

'Yes, wife, it is best.'

'Then kiss me. We'll stop being angry with each other. I'll be both things to you. I mean that I'll be young and beautiful but also a true wife. I'll be the best wife that anyone has ever had in the history of the world. If, tomorrow, when the sun is shining, I am not as beautiful as any queen in the east or west, then kill me if you like. Take the curtain from the window. It is morning already, husband. Look at me.'

When the knight looked at her, he saw that she really was young and beautiful. He caught her in his arms and gave her a thousand kisses. She did everything she could to please him.

So they lived in perfect joy. Please God, send all of us women young, strong, handsome husbands who will do anything for our love. And if any men won't give women what they most desire – the power over their husbands – let God strike them dead!

Comprehension and Opinion

1 Do you understand *The Wife of Bath's Tale*?

- a. What was the Queen's question?
- b. What did the knight see in the forest?
- c. What did he promise to the hag?
- d. What did she ask him to do?
- e. Give three reasons why the knight didn't love his wife.
- f. Why was the hag pleased by the knight's choice?

2 What do you think?

Was the answer to the question correct?

What do modern women want?

Do men and women want the same things?

3 What do men and women want? Here is a list of adjectives. Change them into nouns. The first one has been done for you.

affectionate: <i>affection</i>	beautiful:	comfortable:
famous:	free:	happy:
healthy:	independent:	luxurious:
respectful:	successful:	wealthy:

Now write sentences about what people want, using either adjectives or nouns.

Begin: 'Women/Men/People/Most people/Some people want.....

For example: *People want their partners to be affectionate.*

or People want affection from others.

Write other sentences using your own ideas.

Another Proverb

4 Here is another English proverb. Each number represents a letter.

1.2.3.3.4. 5.6. 7.2.8.9.10., 3.10.11.10.6.9. 2.9.
12.10.5.8.13.3.10.

If you can find the words below, you will be able to understand the proverb:

- | | |
|---|--------------------------|
| a. Between men and women, there is the battle of the: | 8. 10. X 10. 8. |
| b. Someone who defends the rights of women is a: | F 10. 1. 5 .6. 5. 8. 9. |
| c. A strong disagreement is a: | Q 13. 2. 3. 3. 10. 12. |
| d. A wife or husband always complains: | 6. 2. G G 5. 6. G |
| e. The more powerful person in a marriage wears the: | 9. 3. O 13. 8. 10. 3. 8. |
| f. To talk about other people's business is to Do men or women do this more? | G O 8. 8. 5. 11. |
| g. Somebody who plays with love is a: | F 12. 5. 3. 9. |
| h. Telling your friend that he/she is the most handsome/beautiful person in the world is: | F 12. 2. 9. 9. 10. 3. 4. |
| i. Another proverb says that the way to a man's heart is through his: | 8. 9. O 1. 2. C 7. |
| j. In other words, men prefer food to: | B 10. 2. 13. 9. 4. |

Now write the proverb here. You may need a dictionary to help you understand it.

-----, -----

The Wife of Bath



- 5** Listen to the Wife of Bath talking about her life. For questions 1-10, tick (✓) the correct answers true (T) or false (F).

	T	F
1. The Wife of Bath was twelve years old when she was first married.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2. She has had six husbands.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3. Her first three husbands controlled her.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4. She became rich because of them.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
5. She thinks that money is more important than love.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
6. Her fourth husband was more difficult to control.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
7. She treated him badly.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
8. She gave him an expensive funeral.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
9. She is no longer interested in love.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
10. She has been a good wife to all her husbands.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>



- 6** The Wife of Bath has strong beliefs about life. Listen again and supply the missing words in a-e.

- Real comes from experience.
- Everything is for
- Why spend money?
- I've had a of love.
- Although I've lost my
I still know how to

Asking Questions

Look at these questions:

TYPE ONE: *What did* the knight do?
What do women most desire?

TYPE TWO: *Who* helped the knight?
How many ladies danced in the forest?

Type One questions use 'do' or 'did' to form the question. The answer is *not* the *subject* of the verb:

He *attacked* a lady. They *desire* power.

Type Two questions don't use 'do' or 'did'. The answer is the *subject* (or part of the *subject*) of the verb.

The *hag* helped the knight. 24 *ladies* danced there.

7 Now make questions about *The Tales*.

- a. The fox hid under the vegetables.
 Who? The fox.
 Where? Under the vegetables.
- b. Theseus put the cousins in the tower.
 Who (Whom)? The cousins.
 Where? In the tower.
 Who? Theseus.
- c. The two men planned the murder.
 Why? Because they wanted the gold.
 How many men? Two.
- d. The Host suggested a competition.
 Who? The Host.
 What? A competition.
- e. The knight married the hag the next day.
 Why? Because she had helped him.
 Who? The hag.

This is my Life



- 8** The Wife of Bath has the strongest character of all the pilgrims. Most readers of *The Canterbury Tales* remember her longest. Listen to her life story on the recording again.

What are the facts of her life:

- When did she first get married?
- How many husbands has she had?
- What happened to them? Has she travelled?

Here are some facts about some modern characters.

A soldier. Born: 1915. **Married:** three times.

1: a film actress

2: an aristocrat

3: a fashion model

Twelve children, eighteen grandchildren.

Six medals in the Second World War.

OPINIONS: The world was better in the past.

A soldier's life is the best.

An opera singer. Born: 1965. Never married.

Performances: Milan, New York, Paris, London, Tokyo, etc.

Books: *My Life* volumes I, II, III and IV.

Her friends include: presidents, kings, queens, princesses,

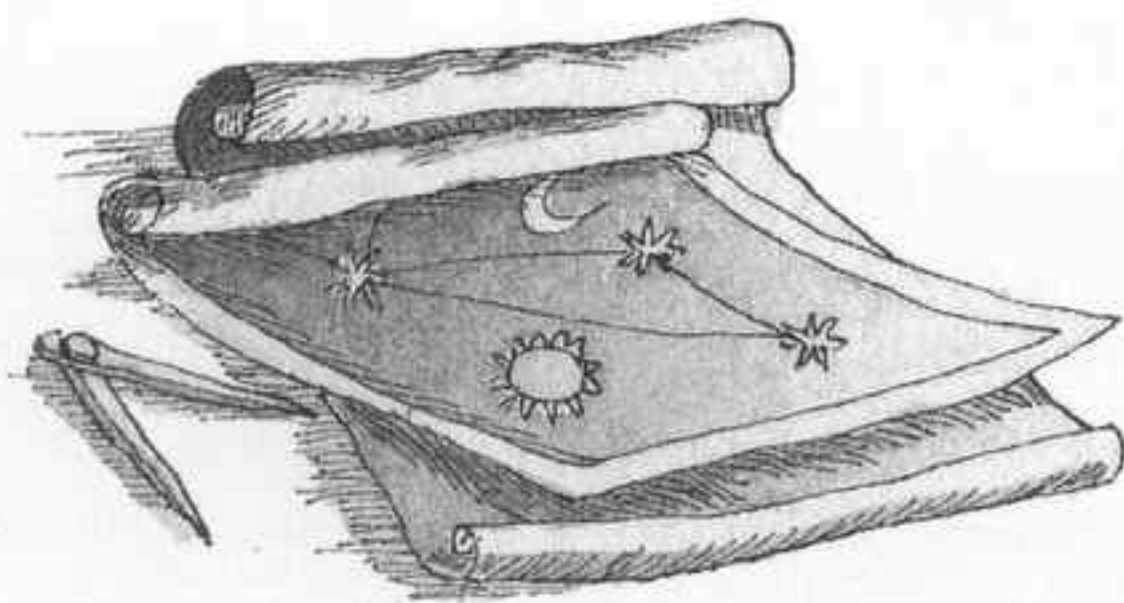
Nobel prize winners, Olympic champions, etc.

OPINIONS: Marriage is for fools.

Life is wonderful.

Choose one of these characters or imagine another character. Write a monologue;¹ he/she is telling his/her life story to an audience, like the Wife of Bath.

1. monologue : 独白。



✠ PART SIX ✠

The Franklin's Tale



‘I am a simple man,’ said the Franklin. ‘I haven’t read many books. But I will tell my story simply and clearly.’

A long time ago, in Brittany, there was a knight who loved a lady. She was one of the most beautiful women under the sun and came from a noble family. He was afraid to speak to her but at last he asked her to marry him.

She knew how much he loved her and decided to accept him as her husband and her lord. In return, he promised that he would never use his power against her but would always do what she wanted. He would never forget that he was her lover as well as her husband.

‘Sir,’ she said, ‘you have given me everything I want from marriage – love and independence. I will be your true wife until I die. My heart is yours.’

The Canterbury Tales

This is the best kind of marriage. Love will not be limited by power. When one person tries to control the other, the God of Love beats his wings and, farewell, he is gone! Women want to be free, not to be servants. And men are the same.

So the lady took the knight as her servant in love and her lord in marriage. If you are not married, you can't imagine the happiness that a wife and husband can enjoy.

Soon, however, the knight, whose name was Arveragus, had to go to England to fight. He stayed there for two years. His wife, whose name was Dorigen, loved her husband as much as she loved her own life. While he was away, she cried and sighed¹ and lost her appetite. She could not sleep and paid no attention to the world. Arveragus sent her letters, telling her how much he loved her. At last, she began to recover.² She drove away her dark fantasy.

Her castle was on the coast, next to the sea. Dorigen often walked with her friends along the cliff-top³ but, when she saw the ships on the sea, she began to cry. 'If one of these ships brought home my lord, then my heart would be happy.'

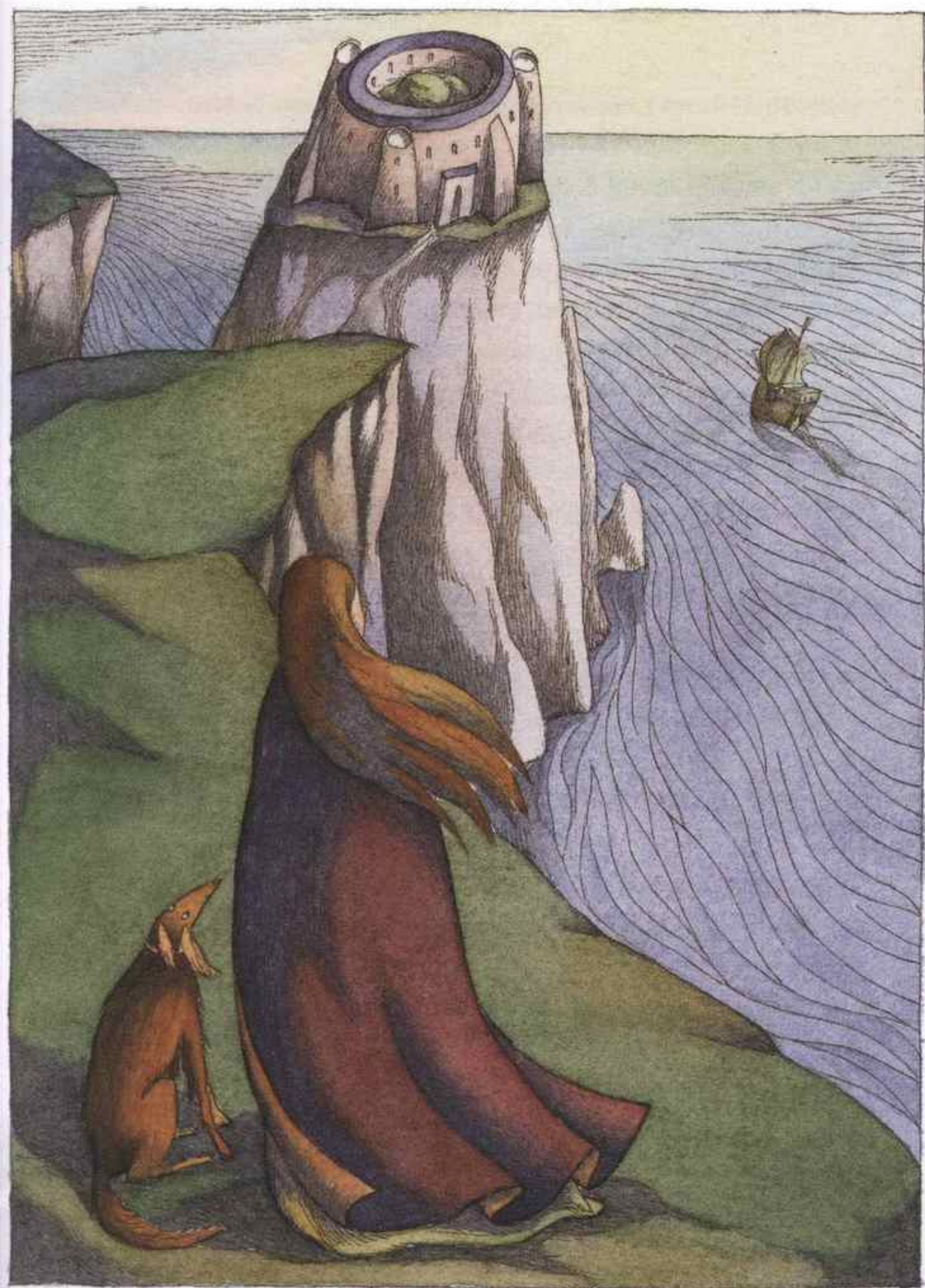
There were terrible black rocks in the sea. Her heart trembled with fear. 'God, why did you make these black rocks and put them here in the sea? They are no good for anything. They destroy ships. Thousands of men have died at sea. It kills my heart to look at them.'

One morning in May, her friends had a party for her. They wanted to make her happy. They went to a garden full of flowers

1. **sighed** : 叹气。

2. **recover** : 恢复。

3. **cliff-top** : 峭壁。



Z. Miksa

The Canterbury Tales

with their bright colours and sweet perfumes; a little paradise. After dinner, they began to dance and sing. But Dorigen stayed alone. She could not be happy without Arveragus.

At this party, there was one of her neighbours, a young squire named Aurelius. He was as bright and handsome as May itself. He was young, strong, honest, rich and wise; a perfect lover. He had loved Dorigen secretly for two years but had never told her. He had written many songs and poems about a beautiful lady that he loved hopelessly but she herself had no idea that she was the lady!

Aurelius decided that the time had come to open his heart.

‘Madam, my heart is breaking. You can kill me or save my life with one word. I lie here at your feet. Give me your sweet love or I will die.’

‘What are you saying?’ said Dorigen. ‘I will never be an untrue wife. Take this as my final answer.’ But, after this, she added as a joke, ‘Aurelius, I would give you my love if you could remove the black rocks from the sea. If you can do that, I’ll love you more than any other man!’

‘Is there no other way to win your love?’

‘No, by God. Forget this stupid idea. Why do you want another man’s wife?’

‘Madam,’ said Aurelius, ‘it is impossible to remove the rocks. So, I will die for your love.’ With these words, he left her. At his house, he shivered¹ with cold. His heart was ice. He got down on his knees and spoke to the gods.

‘Apollo, god of the sun, help me. Your sister, the goddess of the moon, has power over the seas and rivers. Ask her to make a

1. **shivered** : 颤抖。

The Franklin's Tale

great flood which covers the black rocks. Then I can go to my lady and say, Look! I have won your love!' With those words, Aurelius fell on the floor. Luckily, his brother found him and carried him to bed.

Now it is time for me to tell you about Arveragus. He came back from the wars after he had won many battles. Dorigen, you are so happy now! Your husband is in your arms! He loves you better than his own life and never imagines that another man has spoken to you about love.

Aurelius was love-sick¹ for two years! He stayed in bed and told no one about his desire for Dorigen except his brother. His brother was very worried. 'How can I help Aurelius?' he asked himself. 'I remember that when I was in the city of Orléans, I saw a secret book. There are students of magic who can make a river flow inside a house or a lion appear at a dance. They can make people see a castle suddenly appear and then, when they wish, it disappears again.'

So his brother told Aurelius about the book. Aurelius immediately decided to go to Orléans with him. As they came near the city, a young man met him. 'I know why you are here,' he said. 'I am the magician who can help you.' This man took the brothers to his house and showed them fantastic things. Knights fought a great battle in front of their eyes. Then Aurelius saw Dorigen dancing and went to join her. The magician clapped² his hands. Everything disappeared!

1. love-sick : 相思病。

2. clapped : 拍手。

The Canterbury Tales

The magician promised to make all the black rocks disappear from the coast of Brittany. 'But you must pay me a thousand pounds. Nothing less.'

Aurelius laughed. 'I would give you the round world if you could help me win the love of Dorigen. I promise to pay you.'

Next day, the brothers and the magician rode back to the coast. It was December, the beginning of winter when all the green had disappeared from the world. There was frost and rain and snow. 'Please act quickly,' begged Aurelius. 'If I have to wait longer, I will kill myself for love.'

The magician was sorry for him and worked day and night. He took out his magic books and chose the best time for his trick. The moon and stars were in the right place in the sky. Then, by magic, the rocks became invisible. No one could see them.

Aurelius went to the cliff and looked. Then he fell at the magician's feet. 'Thank you, my lord, and thank you, Lady Venus.' He went quickly to find Dorigen.

'My true lady,' he began, 'you almost killed me when you did not give me your love. But now, remember your promise and do not murder me. I have done what you wanted. The black rocks have gone. Go and look. Then, if you decide to be true to your promise, come to me at the garden! We will be lovers there!'

Dorigen lost all the colour from her face. 'I have been tricked! I never imagined that it would be possible to remove the rocks.' She went home and cried for two days without stopping. Arveragus was in another town, so she had no one to help her. 'I must choose between breaking my promise to Aurelius or being an untrue wife. There is only one solution. Many famous women in history have killed themselves to escape from men who tried to take their love. I will be one of them.'

The Franklin's Tale

On the third day, however, Arveragus came home. 'Why are you crying, my darling wife?' he asked her.

She told him everything. Arveragus was not angry but spoke softly to her. 'My dear wife, I cannot ask you to break your promise. My love for you tells me that you must be true. Truth is the highest thing in a person's life!' Then he suddenly began to cry. 'But never speak to anyone about this thing after you have done it. Now, get ready to go to Aurelius. Be happy. No one must see what is happening.'

Perhaps you think that he was stupid to put his wife in such danger. But listen to the end of my story. Then decide.

Dorigen met Aurelius in the street as she was going to the garden to keep her promise. 'Where are you going?' he asked, his face bright and happy.

She told him everything.

Aurelius was shocked. He realised how much Arveragus loved Dorigen. He decided it was better to forget his love than to make her love him against¹ her will.

'Madam, tell your lord, Arveragus, that I understand his love for you. I will not come between his love and you. I agree to forget all your promises. Madam, you are the best and truest wife I have ever known. Your husband has been generous and I will be generous also.'

Dorigen went down on her knees and thanked him. Then she returned to Arveragus and told him what had happened. They were happy for the rest of their lives and lived like a king and queen of love.

Aurelius realised that he had lost everything. 'I must pay the

1. against : 违反。

The Canterbury Tales

magician a thousand pounds. I must sell my house and all my land. But I must keep my promise.'

Sadly, he went to the magician. 'I can pay you five hundred pounds,' he said. 'Please, give me time to pay the rest.'

'Didn't I keep my promise to you?' asked the magician.

'Yes, you did,' replied Aurelius.

'And didn't you enjoy the love of your lady because of my magic?'

'No... No...'

'Tell me the reason if you can.'

'She wanted to kill herself. But her husband loved her so much that he wanted her to be true to her promise. When I heard this, I sent her back to him.'

'My dear friend, you have all done well. He is a knight and he was generous. You are a squire and you were generous. I am a philosopher and I will be generous. I don't want any money for all my work. So now, goodbye!'

The Franklin turned to the other pilgrims. 'My lords, who was the best, most generous gentleman? What do you think?'



Comprehension and Opinion

1 What happened in The Franklin's Tale?

- What do both men and women want in marriage?
- What did Dorigen see in the sea?
- Did Dorigen expect that Aurelius could remove the rocks?
- Why did Aurelius go to Orléans?
- What did Dorigen decide to do?
- Why didn't the magician want his payment?

2 What do you think?

Do you believe in magic?

Did Arveragus do the right thing?

Did Dorigen and Arveragus have the perfect marriage?

Phrasal Verbs

3 Here are some common phrasal verbs. Fill the gap in each example sentence by using the verb in the Past Simple tense.

- to break out*: A fight in the street last night.
- to bring about*: The new manager a victory.
- to fall out with*: The Wife of Bath her husbands.
- to give up*: She smoking.
- to look after*: Doctor Smith my sick brother.
- to look for*: The police the robbers.
- to put forward*: The committee member a suggestion.
- to put off*: He the party until the summer.
- to put on*: They dry clothes after the rainstorm.
- to set off*: The travellers early from the port.

Now complete the sentences with the phrasal verbs provided in Exercise 3 (a-j) in suitable forms.

- a. The Prioress her little dogs lovingly.
- b. War between Athens and Thebes.
- c. Aurelius everything in order to win Dorigen.
- d. Palamon Arcite because of Emily.
- e. The magician the disappearance of the rocks.
- f. Aurelius wanted to paying the magician.
- g. The pilgrims from the Tabard Inn.
- h. The three men Death.
- i. Arcite a disguise when he returned to Athens.
- j. The Host the idea of a competition.

The Book against Women



- 4** Listen to The Franklin's Tale on the recording. You will hear the Wife of Bath telling the story of her fifth husband. Listen once or twice and answer the questions.

- a. What was special about her last husband?
- b. Was his name Jenkin or Jankin or Junkin?
- c. Where did they first meet?
- d. What did she say to him while they were walking?
- e. How soon after the end of her fourth marriage did she marry again?
- f. What was the book like?
- g. What kind of stories were in the book?
- h. How many pages did she tear out of¹ the book?
- i. Why is the Wife of Bath deaf?

1. tear out of: (tear, tore, torn) 撕下。

- j. Why was he worried?
- k. What did he promise?
- l. What happened to the book?
- m. Do you think that she really loved him?

The Past Simple and the Present Perfect Passive

Look at these sentences:

They murdered Thomas Becket in the cathedral.

(PAST SIMPLE ACTIVE)

People have remembered Thomas Becket until now.

(PRESENT PERFECT ACTIVE)

'Thomas Becket' is the most important part of these sentences. We can emphasise this by using the passive. Now the sentences begin:

'Thomas Becket...'

Thomas Becket was murdered in the cathedral.

(PAST SIMPLE PASSIVE: *was* or *were* + *the past participle*)

Thomas Becket has been remembered until now.

(PAST PERFECT PASSIVE: *has* or *have* + *been* + *the past participle*)

Remember that we use the Past Simple for an event in the past that is finished. We use the Present Perfect for an event that has happened in the time period between **then** and **now**. The Present Perfect is often used with **since**, **ever**, **never**, **recently**, etc.

- 5** Now use the verbs below in the Past Simple or Present Perfect passive form to complete the sentences (a-j). Some words can be used more than once.

to bomb to build to bury to destroy
to discover to read to translate
to visit to write

- a. Chaucer's stories for hundreds of years.
- b. *The Canterbury Tales* in the fourteenth century.

- c. Canterbury by thousands of pilgrims until the shrine by Henry VIII.
- d. Canterbury by pilgrims and tourists ever since Becket's death.
- e. Chaucer in Westminster Abbey in 1400.
- f. *The Canterbury Tales* into modern English many times since then.
- g. The bones of Becket (never)
- h. Chaucer's work ever into China?
- i. Canterbury during the Second World War but the cathedral (not)
- j. Many new shops in Canterbury since the 1950's.

6 It is very difficult to read Chaucer in the original, because he wrote in Middle English. This is very different from modern English. But here are a few famous lines as Chaucer wrote them. Can you understand them? There is a rough translation to help you. What are the missing words in the modern translation?

FROM THE PROLOGUE:

Whan that Aprille with his shoures sote
 The droghte of March hath perced to the rote...
 Than longen folk to go on pilgrimages.
 (When with its sweet showers replaces the dry period of
, then people desire to go on)

FROM THE KNIGHT'S TALE:

She gadereth floures, party white and rede,
 To make a sotyil garland for her hede,
 And as an angel heavenly she songe.
 (She gathered white and red to decorate her head and sang
 like a heavenly)

FROM THE NUN'S PRIEST'S TALE:

Wommannes counseil brought us first to wo,
And made Adam from paradys to go...

(..... advice brought the first unhappiness and made Adam
leave)

FROM THE PARDONER'S TALE:

Ther came a privee theef, men clepeth Deeth,
That in this contree al the peple sleeth,
And with his spear he smoot his herte a-two...

(A secret came, called Death, who kills everyone in this
area, and broke his in two with his spear.)

FROM THE WIFE OF BATH'S TALE:

And eek I preye Jesu short hir lyves
That wol nat be governed by hir wives...

(and also I that God will shorten the lives of husbands who
will not be controlled by their)

FROM THE FRANKLIN'S TALE:

Love wol not ben constreyned by maistrye;
Whan maistrie cometh, the god of love anon
Beteth hise winges, and farewel! he is gon!

(Love will not be limited by power; when power enters a marriage,
the god of love soon beats his and – goodbye! – he goes!)

Drama

7 Here is the beginning of a dramatic version of *The Franklin's Tale*:

SCENE ONE:

Narrator: Once there was a brave knight called Arveragus who loved a beautiful lady called Dorigen.

Arveragus: My lady Dorigen.

Dorigen: My lord Arveragus.

Arveragus: I have come to ask you to marry me. I have loved you for many years. Now it is time to speak.

Dorigen: I love you also, Arveragus. But tell me, if I marry you, who will have the power in the marriage?

Arveragus: I will be your husband but I will not forget that I am your lover. You may do as you wish.

Dorigen: That is a good answer. Yes, I will marry you.

Arveragus: Then come and live with me at my castle in Brittany.

Now continue writing the play script. Ask your friends to help you.

SCENE TWO: Dorigen and her friends on the cliff-top.

SCENE THREE: Aurelius and Dorigen at the party.

SCENE FOUR: Aurelius and his brother.

SCENE FIVE: Arveragus and Dorigen at his castle.

SCENE SIX: Aurelius and the magician.

SCENE SEVEN: Aurelius and Dorigen after the rocks have disappeared.

SCENE EIGHT: Arveragus and Dorigen – Dorigen and Aurelius – Aurelius and the magician.

That is the end of *The Canterbury Tales*. I hope you enjoyed the journey with the pilgrims. Everyone has their favourite tale. What about you?

The Canterbury Tales



1

haucer wrote *The Tales* six hundred years ago but they are still popular. Why?

First of all, because they give a wonderful picture of society in the fourteenth century. Chaucer includes all types of people in his book. There are corrupt church officials. There are people from the higher classes such as the Knight and the Prioress. There are common people such as the Miller and the Host. There are bad characters such as the Pardoner and good characters such as the Parson. Chaucer deals with the important topics of his time. The Pardoner's Tale is about the Black Death. The Wife of Bath's Tale and The Franklin's Tale are about marriage. Religion and war and magic are all included in the world which Chaucer creates.

2

Also, *The Tales* are an important part of the development of literature in England. When Chaucer was born, French and Latin were the most powerful languages. Latin was used in the Church and French was the language of the royal court. English, although it was used every day by the majority of the people, was a second-class language. Things changed during Chaucer's lifetime. John Wyclif translated the Bible into English for the first time. And Chaucer himself, encouraged by the example of Italian writers such as Dante, decided to make the everyday English of south-east England and London the language of literature.

3

The Tales deal with topics and emotions which still interest us today. Through his stories, Chaucer discusses the 'war' between men and women. The Wife of Bath seems to think that women

should have the power in a relationship. But the Franklin suggests that both the man and the woman should have freedom and power. Death and old age are themes of The Pardoner's Tale. 'I am a prisoner in this world,' complains the old man. Many characters feel the power of love. Palamon thinks of Emily during his years in prison, Aurelius is sick for two years in his bed, Dorigen thinks of nothing but ¹ the black rocks which might kill her husband.

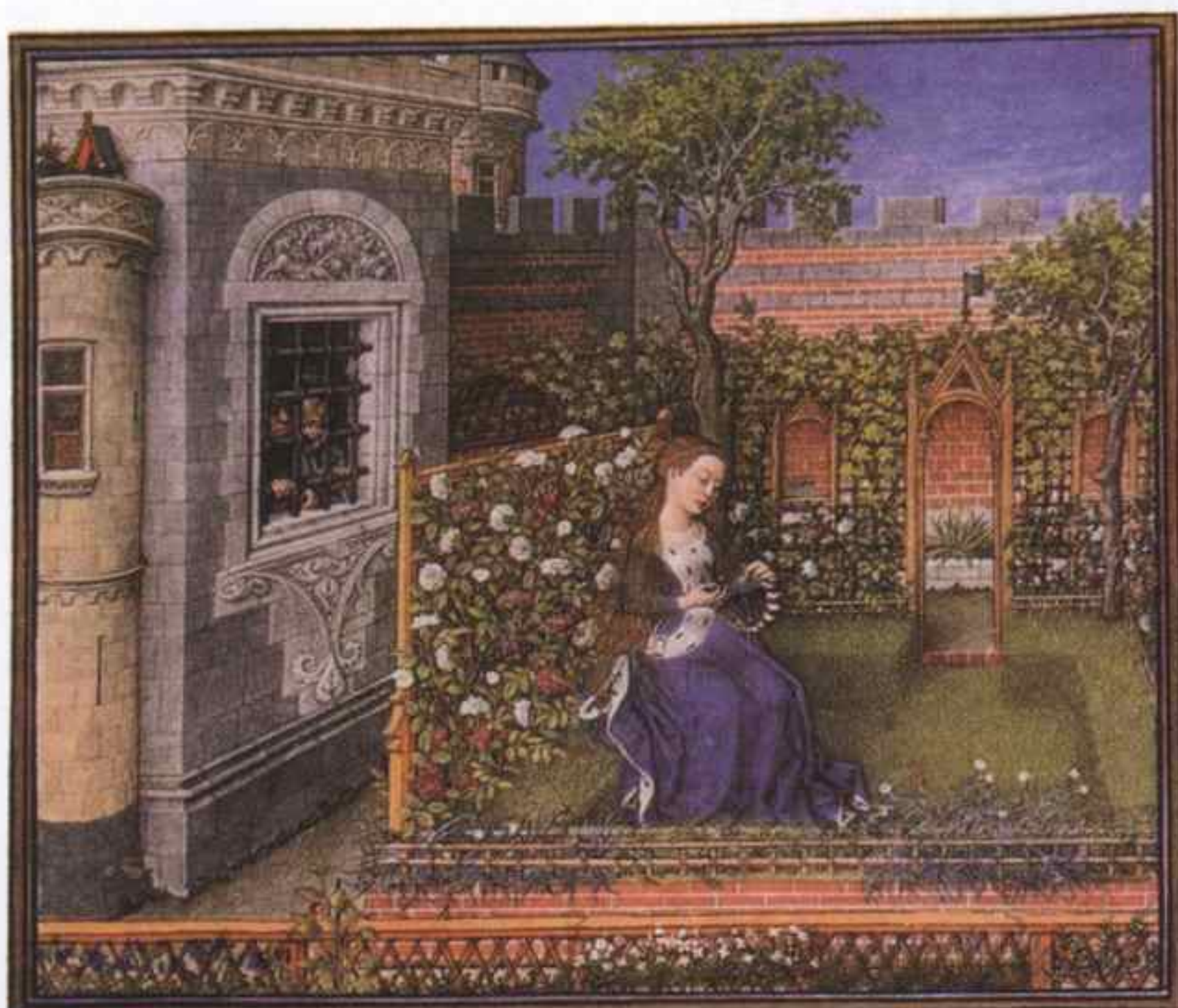
4

Chaucer died before he could complete *The Tales*. His pilgrims never reached Canterbury. I hope that one day some of you who are reading this book will visit Canterbury and see the Cathedral for yourselves. The Romans built a great walled city there. St Augustine brought Christianity to England there. Thomas Becket was murdered there. Chaucer wrote one of the great books of world literature about the journey there. Hundreds of thousands of pilgrims and tourists have travelled there. Canterbury is waiting for you.

1 Choose from the list A-E the sentence which best summarises each part (1-4) of the text. There is one extra sentence which you do not need to use.

- A A wide range of themes
- B A city of importance
- C An insight into Chaucer's times
- D An innovative use of language
- E Dante's and Boccaccio's influence

1. nothing but : 仅仅。



A French illumination of Emily being watched by Palamon and Arcite.

INTERNET PROJECT

Using a search engine find a site on the Internet which contains *The Canterbury Tales* in modern English.

Then choose another Tale which wasn't included in this collection, read it and write a short summary in English.

Writing a story

2 Go back and choose an illustration. For example, page 95 shows Dorigen looking out towards the sea with a castle on a cliff nearby. Either use the illustration to invent your own story or if you prefer describe the picture in detail. Remember to include information about:

1. the surroundings
2. the objects
3. the weather
4. the atmosphere
5. the time of day/year

If you are writing a story, remember to invent names for the characters you see.

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

EXIT TEST

1 The following questions are about all the stories. For questions 1-8, tick (✓) the answers (A, B, C or D) which you think fit best according to the text.

1. Chaucer met the pilgrims

- A ☐ in Canterbury.
- B ☐ at the tomb of Thomas Becket.
- C ☐ in London.
- D ☐ in the forest.

2. How many people were in the group when they left early in the morning?

- A ☐ 29.
- B ☐ 30.
- C ☐ 31.
- D ☐ 32.

3. Theseus decides to let Arcite and Palamon live because

- A ☐ they are no longer the enemies of Athens.
- B ☐ what they have done is done for love.
- C ☐ he is in love with Emily.
- D ☐ he wants to watch them fight.

4. Chantecleer's dream

- A ☐ is a result of eating too much.
- B ☐ comes true.
- C ☐ makes him laugh.
- D ☐ is about a coward.

5. The fox releases Chantecleer from his mouth because

- A ☐ Chantecleer tricks him.
- B ☐ Chantecleer is too heavy.
- C ☐ he wants Chantecleer to sing.
- D ☐ Chantecleer is stupid.

6. What do the three young men ultimately find under the tree?
- A ☐ A pile of gold.
- B ☐ The old man.
- C ☐ Death.
- D ☐ Poison.
7. The Knight tells his wife that he wants her
- A ☐ to be young and beautiful.
- B ☐ to be old, ugly and true.
- C ☐ to decide for herself.
- D ☐ to go away.
8. Dorigen promises Aurelius her love if
- A ☐ he removes the black rocks from the sea.
- B ☐ he writes her songs and poems.
- C ☐ he dies for her.
- D ☐ Arveragus returns home safely.

Score

2 Answer the following questions.

1. How many pilgrims were there on the pilgrimage?
2. According to Chaucer, who were the two bad people of the group and why were they bad?
3. In the Knight's Tale why do Arcite and Palamon fight? Who wins in the end?
4. How does Chantecleer manage to escape from the fox in the Nun's Priest's Tale?
5. If the three men in the Pardoner's Tale had been less selfish would they have found death? Why?/Why not?
6. In the Wife of Bath's Tale what is women's greatest desire?
7. Why does Aurelius release Dorigen from her obligation to him in the Franklin's tale?

Score

- 3** The tales contain many different themes. Below is a list of the most important ones in the stories you have read. Match them to the correct tales. You can use a theme more than once.

generosity greed dreams love friendship pride
misogyny¹ bravery chivalry deception role of fate
relationship between husband and wife magic

The Knight's Tale

The Nun's Priest's Tale

The Pardoner's Tale

The Wife of Bath's Tale

The Franklin's Tale

Score

Writing

- 4** Which tale do you enjoy the most? And which one do you like the least? Then write a short paragraph justifying your answers.

1. misogyny : 厌恶女人。

The Canterbury Tales

KEY TO THE ACTIVITIES AND EXIT TEST

KEY TO THE ACTIVITIES

THE LIFE OF GEOFFREY CHAUCER

Page 12 Exercise 1

1. C 2. A 3. A 4. A 5. B
6. B 7. C 8. C

CHAUCER'S WORLD

Page 16 Exercise 1

- Edward III, Richard II, Henry IV.
- France.
- The Plague, a terrible disease.
- God is deaf.
- The Pardoner, Summoner, Prioress.
- In Canterbury Cathedral.
- She was on a pilgrimage.
- April.

INTERNET PROJECT

Suggested web sites:

http://icg.fas.harvard.edu/~chaucer/special/varia/life_of_Ch/chrono.html

<http://www.librarius.com/chauchro.htm>

SUMMARY

Page 18 Exercise 1

Open answers.

PART ONE

THE PROLOGUE

Page 26 Exercise 1

- At the Tabard Inn at night.
- Because he was young and handsome.
- Yes, she loved her little dogs.
- She was wearing a huge hat, a long coat, red tights and new shoes.
- No, they only cared about money and power.
- He wanted all the pilgrims to tell stories.

Page 26 Exercise 2

Open answers.

Page 26 Exercise 3

Jewellery: bracelet, brooch, ear-rings, necklace, pendant, ring.

Hair: beard, blonde, curly,
moustache, straight, wavy.

Clothes: blouse, cloak, hat, jacket,
overcoat, skirt.

Appearance: attractive, elegant,
graceful, handsome, pretty, ugly.

Parts of the body: elbow, finger,
hips, knee, thumb, wrist.

Page 27 Exercise 4

1. April, not May.
2. from the west, not from the south.
3. Thomas Becket, not Stephen.
4. who helped the sick, not the poor.
5. in London, not in Canterbury.
6. when the sun rises, not before the sun rises.
7. twenty-nine, not thirty-nine.
8. children were not on the pilgrimage.
9. about the world of human beings, not religion.
10. in all parts of the world, not of England.

Tapescript

In May, when the sweet showers fall and feed the roots in the earth, the flowers begin to bloom. The soft wind blows from the south and the young sun rises in the sky. The small birds sing in the green forests. Then people want to go on pilgrimages. From every part of England, they go to Canterbury to visit the tomb of Stephen Becket, the martyr, who helped the poor. My name is Geoffrey Chaucer. People say that I am a poet but I am not really very important. I am just a story-teller. One day in spring, I was staying in Canterbury at The Tabard Inn. At night, a great crowd of people arrived at the inn, ready to go on a pilgrimage to Canterbury. I soon made

friends with them and promised to join them.

'You must get up early,' they told me. 'We are leaving before the sun rises.'

Before I begin my story, I will describe the pilgrims to you. There were thirty-nine. There were men and women and children, young and old, fat and thin, ugly and beautiful, poor men and lords, some riding, some walking, some who lived good lives, others who were bad. If you want to know about religion, then go on a pilgrimage!

First of all, there was a knight. He was a brave man who had fought for chivalry, truth and honour. He had taken part in wars in all parts of England. He always fought bravely and he always killed his enemy. Although he was a famous man, he was modest, sincere and polite. He was a perfect gentleman.

Page 28 Exercise 5

Open answers.

Page 29 Exercise 6

1. **e** Canterbury is a city in Kent **where** Thomas Becket died.
2. **b** The Wife of Bath, **who** had been married five times, was an expert in love.
3. **h** Chaucer, **who** lived in the fourteenth century, wrote *The Canterbury Tales*.
4. **c** Pilgrimages usually begin in April, **which** is the first month of spring.
5. **g** The Prioress had several little dogs, **which** she loved.
6. **d** The Pardoner and the Summoner were bad men **who** took money from the poor.

7. a Chaucer stayed at the Tabard Inn, **where** the pilgrims started their journey.
8. f The Knight, **whose** son was loved by all the girls, was a perfect gentleman.

Page 30 Exercise 7

1. B 2. F 3. A 4. E 5. C
6. E 7. G 8. C 9. I 10. H
11. J 12. K 13. G 14. I

Page 31 Exercise 8

Open answers.

PART TWO

THE KNIGHT'S TALE

Page 40 Exercise 1

- a. In a tower.
- b. Because they both fell in love with Emily.
- c. Because he wanted to be near Emily.
- d. They fought each other.
- e. Two hundred knights.
- f. Arcite won the battle but Palamon married Emily.

Page 40 Exercise 2

Open answers.

Page 40 Exercise 3

Possible answers:

- a. If many people help with one job, it causes problems.
- b. It is better to be sure of something which you have than to risk losing it by trying to get another thing.
- c. If many people help, the work is easier.

- d. Don't waste time being sorry for a mistake after it has happened.
- e. People shouldn't criticise other people if they themselves have faults.
- f. One good thing doesn't mean that everything is all right.

Page 41 Exercise 4

- a. BOXING b. WRESTLING
c. CHAMPION d. VICTORY
e. DEFEAT f. WEAPONS
g. BATTLE h. TREATY
i. THE ARMY j. THE NAVY
k. THE AIR FORCE l. ENEMY
m. ATTACK n. DEFENCE
o. PEACE p. SOLDIER

It's better to have loved and lost than never to have loved at all.

Page 42 Exercise 5

1. False 2. True 3. False
4. True 5. False 6. False
7. True 8. False 9. False
10. True

Tapescript

Once, there was a carpenter who lived in Oxford. He was a very simple man but he had a beautiful wife called Alison. A young student called Nicholas was a lodger in the carpenter's house.

Nicholas and Alison fell in love. They wanted to be alone together but her husband watched them carefully. 'I've got an idea,' said Nicholas.

Nicholas stayed in his room without eating or speaking. 'What's the matter?' asked the carpenter.

'I've had a terrible dream,' said Nicholas. 'God told me that a flood was coming – it will rain for many

weeks and everyone will drown.'

'My beautiful wife!' said the carpenter.

'She will die. How can I save her?'

'You must build three small boats,' said Nicholas. 'Tie them in the roof of the house. Put some food in each boat. Then, tonight, we will climb up and sleep in the boats. When the rain comes, we will be safe.'

The carpenter believed Nicholas.

'These Oxford students are very clever,' he thought. He made the boats and fixed them in the roof. That night he climbed inside one of the boats. He was very happy. 'Everyone will die in the flood except for us. We will have the whole world for ourselves.' Then he fell asleep.

But Nicholas and Alison stayed downstairs. 'We are alone,' said Nicholas. And they began to kiss...

Page 43 Exercise 6

1. the 2. end 3. was 4. both
5. on 6. back 7. from 8. with
9. At 10. fight/battle 11. his
12. get/be 13. were

Page 44 Exercise 7

Open answer.

THOMAS BECKET

Page 48 Exercise 1

- a. False – Becket quarrelled with Henry while he was Archbishop.
- b. True
- c. True
- d. False – Henry II was whipped by the monks.
- e. False – His bones have never been found.

Page 48 Exercise 2

- a. Murder in the Cathedral.
- b. 1162.
- c. 'Who will rid me of this turbulent priest?'
- d. Four knights.
- e. Nothing – he was barefoot.
- f. In the stained-glass windows of Canterbury Cathedral.

Page 48 Exercise 3

Open answers.

PART THREE

THE NUN'S PRIEST'S TALE

Page 57 Exercise 1

- a. Three pigs, three cows, a sheep, a cock and seven hens.
- b. He dreamt about a horrible monster.
- c. They disagreed about the importance of dreams.
- d. He wanted to catch Chantecleer.
- e. The fox seized him.
- f. Chantecleer escaped and flew up into a tree.

Page 57 Exercise 2

Open answers.

Page 57 Exercise 3

Birds: dove, pigeon, sparrow.

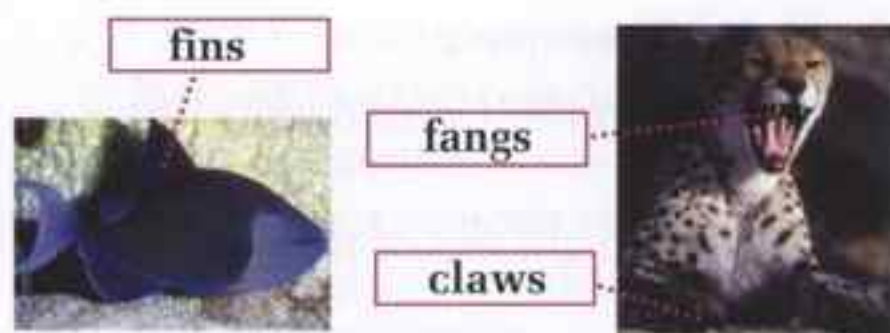
Fish: cod, goldfish, shark.

Insects: ant, beetle, housefly.

Mammals: human being, lion, whale.

Reptiles: alligator, crocodile, lizard.

The spider belongs to none of these groups. It is an arachnid.



at the port for several days until the wind was right. They got up early in the morning to begin their journey. But one of the travellers was worried. 'I had a strange dream,' he said. 'A man was standing by my bed in the middle of the night like a ghost. He told me to wait. "If you go on the sea tomorrow, you will be drowned," said this man in my dream.' The merchant was very worried. He wanted to delay the journey until it was safe.

His friend laughed. 'Look, the sea is calm, the weather is fine, the wind is blowing towards France. I'm not afraid of a dream. I have important business in France. Dreams have no meaning. If you like, you can stay here and lose money. But I shall go to France and become rich! Goodbye, my poor friend.'

So one of the merchants travelled on the ship and the other one stayed on land. In the middle of the journey, there was a sudden accident. The ship went to the bottom of the sea and everyone was drowned!

There are many other stories. Men have dreamed that they would be murdered or robbed or tricked. And it always came true. If you knew more history, Pertelot, you wouldn't laugh at my dream. But the sun has risen. It is time for us to enjoy the day, my beautiful wife.

Page 59 Exercise 4

1. stories about dreams
2. the sea to France
3. wind was right
4. had a strange dream
5. delay the journey until it was safe
6. of a dream
7. the other one stayed on land
8. an accident
9. one was drowned
10. laugh at his dream

Tapescript

Chantecler told Pertelot some more stories about dreams. Once, he said, there were two merchants who wanted to cross the sea to France. They waited

Page 60 Exercise 5

- a. had closed/seized
- b. had recovered/walked
- c. stopped/had reached
- d. had loved/was
- e. told/had had
- f. flew/had opened
- g. told/had come

- h. had told/thanked
- i. wanted/had stolen

Order: d e b g a i c f h

Page 61 Exercise 6

- 1. of 2. out 3. ✓ 4. in 5. of
- 6. ✓ 7. out 8. on 9. ✓ 10. ✓
- 11. to 12. ✓ 13. of 14. ✓
- 15. and 16. ✓ 17. not 18. be
- 19. ✓ 20. and 21. as 22. ✓
- 23. ever 24. ✓ 25. ✓ 26. to

PART FOUR

THE PARDONER'S TALE

Page 70 Exercise 1

- a. Because the people were taking a dead body to the churchyard.
- b. They decided to kill Death.
- c. In the forest under a tree.
- d. They were rude to him.
- e. They found a huge pile of gold coins.
- f. He went to the town to get some bread and wine.
- g. The youngest one was murdered. The others were poisoned when they drank the wine.
- h. Death.
- i. Open answer.
- j. Open answer.

Page 71 Exercise 2

- a. If I had a car, I would drive from England to China.
- b. If I marry Susan, we will have a lot of children.
- c. If I married Jane, I would travel round the world with her.
- d. If Cambridge United won, I would win the bet.

- e. If I pass my examinations, I will work in Africa.
- f. If we robbed the bank, we would go to the United States.
- g. If we rob the bank, we will go to the United States.
- h. If I don't give them the money, they will shoot me.
- i. If the police caught us, we would go to prison.
- j. If I ring the bell, the police will catch them.

Page 72 Exercise 3

- a. coffin b. murderers c. killers
 - d. cemetery e. graveyard
 - f. undertaker g. bones h. Hell
 - i. skull j. funeral k. skeleton
 - l. Paradise m. black n. bury
- Crime doesn't pay.

Page 72 Exercise 4

- 1. B 2. A 3. B 4. A 5. B
- 6. C 7. B 8. A 9. B

Tapescript

Once, there was a rich old knight who had a beautiful young wife. They were called January and May. January was very jealous of his wife and watched her very carefully. But January's servant, Damian, sent her secret love-letters. May wanted to meet Damian alone but it was difficult with such a jealous husband.

One day, January woke up and could not see. He was blind. He became more and more jealous because he couldn't watch his wife. All day and all night, he held May's hand. It was even more difficult than before to meet Damian.

May, however, made a plan to trick

her old, blind husband. She led him into the garden. Damian had climbed a tree and was sitting in the branches. 'Darling husband,' said May, 'help me to climb into the tree. There are some delicious pears. I will bring you one.' January agreed. May stood on his back and climbed into the tree above his head. At last she was free. May and Damian kissed passionately among the green leaves and the golden fruit. But the gods were watching. They decided to help January. They gave him back his sight. He could see again! And the first thing he saw was his young wife kissing his servant in the pear tree.

'Wife!' he shouted angrily. 'What are you doing?'

May thought quickly. 'A doctor told me,' she said, 'that the only way to help you to see again was to fight with a young man in a tree. It's magic! I did it to help you, darling.'

'But you weren't fighting, you were kissing,' said January.

'Your eyes are not so good yet. You made a mistake. Of course I wasn't kissing that young man,' she answered.

She came down from the tree and kissed him while Damian escaped.

'Everything is all right,' she said. 'You can see again, my darling husband, and we have some delicious pears for our supper.'

Page 74 Exercise 5

Open answers.

THE CITY OF CANTERBURY

Page 78 Exercise 1

- a. False – There was an Iron Age settlement.
- b. True
- c. False – The Cathedral has many different architectural styles.
- d. False – Canterbury is in a valley.
- e. False – There are still many buildings from Chaucer's time.
- f. True
- g. False – There is one city gate which still stands.
- h. False – She looked for her sixth husband among the many pilgrims.

Page 79 Exercise 2

Open answers.

PART FIVE

THE WIFE OF BATH'S TALE

Page 88 Exercise 1

- a. What is it that women most desire?
- b. He saw twenty-four beautiful women dancing.
- c. He promised to do anything that she asked.
- d. She asked him to marry her.
- e. She came from a low-class family. She was poor. She was old and ugly.
- f. Because he gave her the power to choose.

Page 88 Exercise 2

Open answers.

Page 88 Exercise 3

beauty comfort fame freedom
happiness health independence
luxury respect success wealth

Page 89 Exercise 4

- a. sexes b. feminist c. quarrel
d. nagging e. trousers f. gossip
g. flirt h. flattery i. stomach
j. beauty

Marry in haste, repent at leisure.

Page 90 Exercise 5

1. True
2. False – She has had five husbands.
3. False – She controlled them.
4. True
5. True
6. True
7. True
8. False – She didn't spend a lot of money on his funeral.
9. False – She is still interested in love.
10. False – She hasn't been a good wife.

Tapescript

My lords, this is the story of my life. Since I was twelve years old, I have had five husbands, all married in church. Some people say you should only marry once but I don't agree. I'm looking forward to the sixth husband. I'm an expert in life and love. You can read about things in books but real knowledge comes from experience. And I've had more experience than any of you.

My first three husbands were rich and old. I made them work for me. I spent their money, I stopped them from

looking at other women and, before they died, I made them give me all their land and gold. Money is the most important thing in life, I believe. Everything is for sale.

But my fourth husband was different. He liked drinking and dancing. He had a girlfriend. That made me angry but I got my revenge! I made him pay for it. I shouted at him, I hit him, I flirted with other men... In the end, he became sick because of me, his terrible wife. I went on a holy pilgrimage to Jerusalem and, when I came back, he was dead. I tell you, I didn't spend a lot of money on his funeral. Why spend money on the dead?

I've enjoyed my life. I've had a world of love. And now that I'm older, although I've lost my good looks, I still know how to get a man. Maybe I'll marry one of you!

Page 90 Exercise 6

- a. knowledge
- b. sale
- c. on the dead
- d. world
- e. good looks/get a man

Page 91 Exercise 7

- a. Who hid under the vegetables?
Where did the fox hide?
- b. Who did Theseus put in the tower?
Where did Theseus put them?
Who put them in the tower?
- c. Why did they plan the murder?
How many men planned the murder?
- d. Who suggested a competition?
What did the Host suggest?
- e. Why did the knight marry the hag?
Who married the knight?

Page 92 Exercise 8

Open answers.

PART SIX

THE FRANKLIN'S TALE

Page 102 Exercise 1

- a. Freedom.
- b. Terrible black rocks.
- c. No, she didn't.
- d. To see a magician.
- e. She decided to kill herself.
- f. He wanted to be as generous as Arveragus and Aurelius.

Page 102 Exercise 2

Open answers.

Page 102 Exercise 3

- a. broke out b. brought about
- c. fell out with d. gave up
- e. looked after f. looked for
- g. put forward h. put off
- i. put on j. set off
- a. looked after b. broke out
- c. gave up d. fell out with
- e. brought about f. put off
- g. set off h. looked for
- i. put on j. put forward

Page 103 Exercise 4

- a. He was the only one she really loved.
- b. Jankin.
- c. At her grandmother's house.
- d. 'If my husband dies, I want you for my next one.'
- e. A month.
- f. It was a big book with hundreds of stories.

- g. Stories about bad women.
- h. Three.
- i. Because Jankin hit her over the head with the book.
- j. He thought that he had killed her.
- k. He promised never to hit her again.
- l. The book was burnt.
- m. Open answer.

Tapescript

Let me tell you about my last husband, the only one I truly loved. I was forty and he was twenty. I met him at my grandmother's house. His name was Jankin and he had been a student at Oxford. We went to the fields together while my husband was in London. 'Jankin,' I said, 'if my husband dies, I want you for my next one.'

In fact, Jankin helped to carry my husband to his grave. A month later, we got married. At first we were happy. But then he began to beat me. He said that he hated women.

The problem was a book. It was a book against women. It was a very big book with hundreds of stories about bad women. Eve, who had given Adam the apple in Paradise. Cleopatra, who had destroyed Mark Antony. Wives who had murdered their husbands.

Jankin read this book every night by the fire.

At last, I had had enough. I jumped up and tore three pages out of the book. Then I hit him so that he fell backwards into the fire. Immediately, like an angry lion, he picked up the enormous, heavy book. He hit me over the head with it! Bang! That's why I'm deaf in my left ear.

Well, I knew what to do. I lay still on

the floor as if I were dead. He thought he had killed me. At last, I opened my eyes. 'Did you want to murder me for my gold?' I asked.

'Dearest love,' he said, 'I will never hit you again. Forgive me.'

Then I sat up and kissed him. After that, he let me do as I wanted. And I was a true wife to him. But what about the book? I made him burn it in the fire. A book like that can destroy a marriage.

Page 104 Exercise 5

- a. have been read
- b. was written/were written
- c. was visited/was destroyed
- d. has been visited
- e. was buried
- f. have been translated/has been translated
- g. have never been discovered
- h. Has/been translated
- i. was bombed/was not destroyed
- j. have been built

Page 105 Exercise 6

Prologue: April, March, pilgrimages

Knight's Tale: flowers, angel

Nun's Priest's Tale: Women's, paradise

Pardoner's Tale: thief, heart

Wife of Bath's Tale: pray, wives

Franklin's Tale: wings

Page 107 Exercise 7

Open answers.

THE CANTERBURY TALES

Page 110 Exercise 1

1. C 2. D 3. A 4. B

INTERNET PROJECT

Page 112

Suggested web site:

www.siue.edu/CHAUCER

KEY TO THE EXIT TEST

1

1. C 2. C 3. B 4. B 5. A
6. C 7. C 8. A

2

1. There were 29 pilgrims plus Chaucer and the host of the Tabard Inn.
2. The Summoner and the Pardoner.
The Summoner because he used his power to cheat poor people. The Pardoner because he, too, used his religious power to cheat people.
3. They fight because they both love the same woman – Emily. In the end Arcite wins the battle but is then thrown from his horse and dies, so Palamon wins Emily's love in the end.
4. Because he tricks the fox by flattering him and telling him to talk. In this way the fox releases Chantecleer from his jaws and he escapes.
5. No, they wouldn't have found death. They could have shared the money they found among them.

6. Women's greatest desire is to have power over their husbands.
7. Because he realises how much she loves her husband, and because he wants to behave generously as Dorigen's husband did.

3

1. The Knight's Tale: love, friendship, bravery, role of fate
2. The Nun's Priest's Tale: dreams, love, pride, deception, relationship between husband and wife
3. The Pardoner's Tale: greed, friendship, deception
4. The Wife of Bath's Tale: generosity, love, misogyny, relationship between husband and wife
5. The Franklin's Tale: generosity, love, chivalry, relationship between husband and wife, magic

4

Open answer.



The Canterbury Tales

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Level 5

A Christmas Carol

小气财神

The Tragedy of Dr Faustus

浮士德的悲剧

Washington Square

华盛顿广场

A Midsummer Night's Dream

仲夏夜之梦

American Horror

爱伦·坡恐怖故事

Much Ado About Nothing

无事生非

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