

SRIMAAN ONLINE COACHING CENTRE-PGTRB-
POLYTECHNIC ENGLISH-CONTACT: 8072230063

2017

SRIMAAN

PG-TRB

POLYTECHNIC

ENGLISH

WITH

QUESTION BANK

UNIT-I

SRIMAAN

PGTRB-POLYTECHNIC-ENGLISH

Unit - 1

Chaucer to Shakespeare

The Prologue to the Canterbury Tales

BY: Geoffrey Chaucer

INTRODUCTION ABOUT POET:

- Age of Chaucer is a link bet the old and the New – age of transition 1373 – he began his Canterbury tales.
- In his Decameron, Boccaccio furnished for Chaucer's Canterbury Tales greatest work of the English period.
- Chaucer borrowed ideas for his Canter burry Tales from Boccacio's Decamaron .
- Fatter of English Poetry reason 1. set up the standard English Lang 2. First to teach the art of versification. Chaucer combines in himself the best elements of French and English culture. This is evident by comparing him with his two contemporaries – Langland and Gower .Langland seeks to revive old English tradition Gower stands for foreign culture chaucer stands midway bet Langland and Gower.
- was familiar with the works of Virgil and Ovid and Latin prose writers.
- The Black Death Occurred (4 times) in England during the reign of Edward III (1348-49)

SRIMAAN

2. The book of the Duchess(1369) offer consolation Italian English

To the of Gauant to the death of his French life “House of the fame”Wife Blanche

Roman de la rose

- allegory-love poem transacted in to English. Hundred years of war began
- Canter burry Tales – greater work of this period)
- in the reign of Edward III

C – The poet

Chaucer Introduced 7 line decasyllabic stanza riming abab bcc known as rime royal was also called Triolus verse, Cressida verse, the Chaucerian stanza.

- 7 line stanza (decasykabic)
- 10 syllable couplet called heroic couplet (the five beat line, in stanza or couplet)

Introduced

- Terzarima a seetian to “The complaint to his Lady”
- Popularised Freeh formes – Roundel and the balled

Chaucer Language

(14th imp for growth growth of Eng. Lang during the first half of 14th French was the chief lang of nobility.

- In the age of Chaucer there were four dialects prevalent in England-northern southern, the East midland and the west midland. Chaucer chose midland dialect because it was also used by the upper classes of society and it was really living.

➤ Poet of the lusty spring – Chaucer

first great Eng humorist – Chaucer

In Chaucer’s poet. to he gives an account of (14th social and religious condition – because religion is a part of life by the middle of (14th Eng was becoming the common tongue of the nation. parliament was opened by an English speech in 1363.

➤ The kind of humor C and Shakespeare reveals based on insight and sympathy

30 pilgrims – each has to tell a story

(The discussion was held a “Tabard Inn south wark”)

➤ On the way to the shrine of Thomas Becket Prologue is a picture of medieval society but it is in the process of disintegration.

➤ It tells about the society

The knight and “The squire – represent old tradition of chivalry

The friar, the monk, The pardoner parish priest, Oxford scholar – denounced the abuses and corruptions of the church.

A shipman – a blend of merchant

Sailor and pirate, –merchant, a number of guild members Miller, the Manciple, the Reeve and Wife of Bath – ugly things about the medieval church.

The friar – bears witness to the worldliness and corruptions growing up among the clergy. He was so popular with the Franklin and respectable women of the town – licensed to hear confessions. Let the sinner give silver to the poor Friars and his sins were remitted at once.

Fria rough to be led to poverty but he led a merry and jovial life. paying little heed to religious concerns moved about like a master or Pope.

Wife of bath

C's masterly creation quite respectable women in the society.

- Dressed fashionably
- First he go up to alter he make offerings
- Wide traveler – had been to Jerusalem

30 pilgrims including the host belong to diverse professions

Knight and his son – represent war like elements

Represent by the man of law the Doctor, the oxford clerk and the poet –

The learned and the liberal

The machant and The shipman – Higher commercial community

The wife of Bath – Expert cloth maker

Haberdasher and his associates – Belong to the class of smaller London traders and manufacturers

Playhman, the miller and the Franklin- Agriculturists

Maniple and Reeve – Upper servants represent down

Yeoman and cook – Lower servants represent country

The monk, Themonastery the prioress from her convent, her attendant priests, the village parson, the roaming – Religious order people.

Friar, the pardoner and the sunnour – Religious order people.

Chaucer gives distinctions among these characters by pointing out the difference in their clothes, manner of speech habits and tendencies and the characteristics of each profession. These are real human beings.

Example:- The host, the reeve, the man of Law, the Franklin are drawn from living models.

Some of the characters seem to live even today

Example:- The knight, The squire

The prologue is rightly called – the social picture of England of the late 14th as

Dryden says “ There is God’s plenty” Chaucer is “the poet of the lusty spring”

– says H.A. Beers

Characters of C.T

The knight, a squire and yeoman – military profession.

A prioress, a nun (her secretary) – connected with Christian church Ecclesiastical group. member of RC religious community. A monk, A friar, A summoner, A pardoner, A poor parson, parish priest, a clerk of oxford (student of divinity)

➤ A lawyer, A physician and many miscellaneous

Minor characters

A Franklin, A Merchant, A Shipman A Miller, A Cook, A Manipale, A Reeve (law officer in UK), A haberdasher (shop that makes sells men’s clothes), A carpenter, A weaver, a dyer, A tapycer, A ploughman and a cloth maker.

The knight – Perfect gentleman fond of love the truth, chivalry and honour.

- Representative of warfare.

The squire – Proud of his appearance

- Love sick

The prioress – Called Madame Eglantine =(only two women characters)

-nun, sings divine songs

-has pity only for dogs

-engraved a crowed “A” and has a golden brooch with an inscription.

“Love conquers very thing”

The Wife of Bath – unrefined and rough in temperament

Important character - Married 5 times and had Many lovers in her youth. She had made pilgrimages to Jerusalem, Rome Boulogne and Cologne.

Monk – Supervisor of the monastery estate negligent in his duty. Hunting is his pastime which is actually unsuited to his profession.

Friar – Gay and merry – gets money for confessions – likes gossiping and flattering – rotally immoral and corruptive.

Summour – His duty is to bring sinners for trial before a church court

➤ **impious, gentle rascal**

➤ **he can send his mistress to a sinner for 12 months for a bottle of wine.**

Pardoner – Sells intelligence and gets more profit. He sells a pillow case in the name of virgin Mary’s veil, a piece of canvas as the saint peter’s sail, the bones of a pig as rollicks of a saint.

By presenting these characters, Chaucer has reflected the persons embodying the churches of England in the 14th century. Chaucer’s intention is to bring out the follies and foibles of the society. He expects a complete change in the conditions of the churches.

Chaucer – 1340 – 1400

Born in London

Chaucer lived during the period of three kings –Edward III Richard II and Henry IV

During the rule of Edward III – there was medieval civilization in England

Chaucer wrote knight’s tale – it was a chronicle of historical accounts.

1. Trade expansion – resulted – increase of wealth
2. Living conditions of the people – Miserable
3. Terrific epidemic called Black Death many people died
4. During the French wars the condition of the country –worsened
5. There was necessity for taxing the people - these situations brought the symptoms of social utmost.

100 years of war began in his reign King Richard II was unwise. The conflict between the king and the people. In the age of Chaucer evil increased to a greater extent. There was corruption in churches. Chaucer lived in this period. He wanted to reveal the shocking state of things of the churches. There was also another prominent person lived at this age.

John Wyclif – morning star of reformation

- wanted to revive the spiritual Christianity of England
- wrote religious pamphlets.
- Produced the complete Eng version of the Bible

Later part of the (14th – period of social umest and the beginning of a new religious movement and also new learning.

Petrarch (1304-74) and Boccaccio (1313-75) – considered to be the leaders of this revival.

- They spread the spirit of humanism in England. This situation later on gave rise to renaissance. But the spirit of humanism was infused in chaucer’s age.

The divine comedy of Dante was the final and supreme expression of the world of medieval Christendom. The oxford scholars – Duns, Scotus

William Occam – are among last of the medieval school men

Geoffrey Chaucer (1340-1400)

Son of John Chaucer. After his marriage, he became a valet in the kings chamber. Chaucer died in 1400 and was buried in the Westminster Abbey.

The place afterwards came to be called 'poet's corner' [FP – Freeh Period, IP – Italian Period]

ENGLISH PERIOD

Works

1369 – The Book of the duchess – (FP)

1372 – Troilus and Criseyde – (IP)

1377 – The parliament of fowls (IP)

1379 – The house of the fame(IP)

1384 – The Legend of Good women – (unfinished work) (adapted from latinwone of BoeccaciosDe Claris Mulieribus)

1387 – The Centerbury Tales (EP)

1391 – The complaint of Venus(EP)

1399 – the complaint of Chaucer to His Empty Purse. Chaucer was influenced by the Italian master of Dante and Boccaccio.

English period

In his Decameron, Boccaccio furnished the example for Chaucer's Canterbury Tales – greatest wore of English period. Chaucer – Not a poet of the people.

- **Court poet**
- **wrote only for the high class readers and cultured society**
- **never took painful subjects**
- **not a serious reformer**
- **rightly called the morning star of Renaissance**
- **Mostly written in 'out of door atmosphere'**

- **Father of English poetry**
- **First great painter of characters**
- **First great English humorist**
- **Calls himself 'an unlettered man'**
- **First creator of human characters in English literature**
- **Poet of the lusty spring.**

Synopsis The frame story of the poem, as set out in the 858 lines of Middle English which make up the General Prologue, is of a religious pilgrimage. The narrator, Geoffrey Chaucer, is in The Tabard Inn in Southwark, where he meets a group of "sundry folk" who are all on the way to Canterbury, the site of the shrine of Saint Thomas Becket.

The setting is April, and the prologue starts by singing the praises of that month whose rains and warm western wind restore life and fertility to the earth and its inhabitants. This abundance of life, the narrator says, prompts people to go on pilgrimages; in England, the goal of such pilgrimages is the shrine of Thomas Becket. The narrator falls in with a group of pilgrims, and the largest part of the prologue is taken up by a description of them; Chaucer seeks to describe their 'condition', their 'array', and their social 'degree':

To telle yow al the condicioun,
Of ech of hem, so as it semed me,
And whiche they weren, and of what degree,
And eek in what array that they were inne,
And at a knyght than wol I first bigynne.

The pilgrims include a knight, his son a squire, the knight's yeoman, a prioress accompanied by a second nun and the nun's priest, a monk, a friar, a merchant, a clerk, a sergeant of law, a franklin, a haberdasher, a carpenter, a weaver, a dyer, a tapestry weaver, a cook, a shipman, a doctor of physic, a wife of Bath, a parson, his brother a plowman, a miller, a manciple, a reeve, a summoner, a pardonner, the host (a man called Harry Bailly), and a

portrait of [Chaucer](#) himself. At the end of the section, the Host proposes the story-telling contest: each pilgrim will tell two stories on the way to Canterbury and two on the way back. Whoever tells the best story, with "the best sentence and moost solaaas" (line 798) is to be given a free meal.

General Prologue: Introduction Summary

The narrator opens the General Prologue with a description of the return of spring. He describes the April rains, the burgeoning flowers and leaves, and the chirping birds. Around this time of year, the narrator says, people begin to feel the desire to go on a pilgrimage. Many devout English pilgrims set off to visit shrines in distant holy lands, but even more choose to travel to Canterbury to visit the relics of Saint Thomas Becket in Canterbury Cathedral, where they thank the martyr for having helped them when they were in need.

The narrator tells us that as he prepared to go on such a pilgrimage, staying at a tavern in Southwark called the Tabard Inn, a great company of twenty-nine travelers entered. The travelers were a diverse group who, like the narrator, were on their way to Canterbury. They happily agreed to let him join them. That night, the group slept at the Tabard, and woke up early the next morning to set off on their journey. Before continuing the tale, the narrator declares his intent to list and describe each of the members of the group.

The canterbury tales (middle english: tales of caunterbury[2]) is a collection of 24 stories that runs to over 17,000 lines written in middle english by geoffrey chaucer. in 1386 chaucer became controller of customs and justice of peace and then three years later in 1389 clerk of the king's work. it was during these years that chaucer began working on his most famous text, the canterbury tales. the tales (mostly written in verse, although some are in prose) are presented as part of a story-telling contest by a group of pilgrims as they travel together on a journey from london to canterbury in order to visit the shrine of saint thomas becket at canterbury cathedral. the prize for this contest is a free meal at the tabard inn at southwark on their return.

After a long list of works written earlier in his career, including *troilus and criseyde*, *house of fame*, and *parliament of fowls*, the *canterbury tales* is near-unanimously seen as *chaucer's magnum opus*. he uses the tales and the descriptions of its characters to paint an ironic and critical portrait of english society at the time, and particularly of the church. *chaucer's* use of such a wide range of classes and types of people was without precedent in english. although the characters are fictional, they still offer a variety of insights into the customs and practices of the time. often, such insight leads to a variety of discussions and disagreements to people in the 14th century. for example, although a variety of social classes are represented in these stories and all pilgrims on a spiritual quest, it is apparent that they are more concerned with worldly things than spiritual. structurally, the collection resembles the *decameron*, which *chaucer* may have read during his first diplomatic mission to italy in 1372.

it is sometimes argued that the greatest contribution the *canterbury tales* made to english literature was in popularizing the literary use of the vernacular, english, rather than french, italian or latin. english had, however, been used as a literary language centuries before *chaucer's* time, and several of *chaucer's* contemporaries—*john gower*, *william langland*, the *pearl poet*, and *julian of norwich*—also wrote major literary works in english. it is unclear to what extent *chaucer* was responsible for starting a trend as opposed to simply being part of it.

while *chaucer* clearly states the addressees of many of his poems, the intended audience of the *canterbury tales* is more difficult to determine. *chaucer* was a courtier, leading some to believe that he was mainly a court poet who wrote exclusively for nobility.

the *canterbury tales* were far from complete at the end of *chaucer's* life. in the general prologue,[3] some thirty pilgrims are introduced. *chaucer's* intention was to write two stories from the perspective of each pilgrim on the way to and from their ultimate destination, *st. thomas becket's shrine*.

although perhaps incomplete, the canterbury tales is revered as one of the most important works in english literature. not only do readers from all time

frames find it entertaining, but also it is a work that is open to a range of interpretations.[4]the canterbury tales

The Pilgrims

The Narrator - The narrator makes it quite clear that he is also a character in his book. Although he is called Chaucer, we should be wary of accepting his words and opinions as Chaucer's own. In the General Prologue, the narrator presents himself as a gregarious and naïve character. Later on, the Host accuses him of being silent and sullen. Because the narrator writes down his impressions of the pilgrims from memory, whom he does and does not like, and what he chooses and chooses not to remember about the characters, tells us as much about the narrator's own prejudices as it does about the characters themselves.

The Knight - The first pilgrim Chaucer describes in the General Prologue, and the teller of the first tale. The Knight represents the ideal of a medieval Christian man-at-arms. He has participated in no less than fifteen of the great crusades of his era. Brave, experienced, and prudent, the narrator greatly admires him.

[Read an in-depth analysis of The Knight.](#)

The Wife of Bath - Bath is an English town on the Avon River, not the name of this woman's husband. Though she is a seamstress by occupation, she seems to be a professional wife. She has been married five times and had many other affairs in her youth, making her well practiced in the art of love. She presents herself as someone who loves marriage and sex, but, from what we see of her, she also takes pleasure in rich attire, talking, and arguing. She is deaf in one ear and has a gap between her front teeth, which was considered attractive in Chaucer's time. She has traveled on pilgrimages to Jerusalem three times and elsewhere in Europe as well.

[Read an in-depth analysis of The Wife of Bath.](#)

SRIMAAN

PG-TRB / POLYTECHNIC / GROUP 2A

MATERIALS AVAILABLE:

- PG TRB: TAMIL (QUESTION BANK)
- PG TRB: ENGLISH (QUESTION BANK)
- PG TRB: MATHEMATICS (QUESTION BANK) (E/M)
- PG TRB: PHYSICS (E/M)
- PG TRB: CHEMISTRY (QUESTION BANK) (E/M)
- PG TRB: COMMERCE (QUESTION BANK)
(Tamil & English Medium)
- PG TRB: ECONOMICS (QUESTION BANK) (T/M)
- PG TRB: HISTORY (QUESTION BANK) (T/M)
- PG TRB: ZOOLOGY (QUESTION BANK) (E/M)
- PG TRB: BOTANY (QUESTION BANK) (T/M)

SRIMAAN ONLINE COACHING CENTRE-PGTRB-
POLYTECHNIC ENGLISH-CONTACT: 8072230063

2017

**10% Discount for all materials.
Materials are sending through
COURIER.**

CONTACT: 80722 30063

THANK YOU

www.Padasalai.Net

SRIMAAN

8072230063