

Essay Topics

Directions: Select **one** of the following topics and write a thoughtful, well-constructed essay. Use **details from the tale(s) to support your answer.**

1. Why do you think *The Canterbury Tales* has remained a classic? Defend your opinion.
2. Show how one pilgrim's description in the Prologue can be related to the story told later. How are the character's personality, lifestyle, interests, intelligence, vocation, and attitudes toward life and people reflected in the tale?
3. Identify the tale you found to be the best, funniest, and most moralistic. Cite evidence to support your opinion.
4. How does a reader's forming impressions of a character in the *Prologue* affect an understanding of the character's individual tale?
5. Trace how a reader's understanding of the characters in the *Prologue* is shaped by Chaucer's presenting them in a particular sequence.
6. From *Canterbury Tales*, what can you tell about Chaucer's feelings about the clergy? Did he trust them? What do you think he would suggest that a good clergy person should do for people? Use details from the poem to support your answer.
7. The adjective *Chaucerian* is often used to describe an earthy zest for life. In what ways is the tone of the tales we read from the *Canterbury Tales* "Chaucerian"? Support your ideas with reference to the poem.