

CHAUCER'S "PROLOGUE"

SMALL GROUP AGENDA & NOTES

(Wally rev. term 1, '00-'01)

GROUP

Label the top of this WA like this:

WA --- Chaucerian Shadowing

Your name: _____
Today's date: _____

Group Members:

Shaper/Coordinator: _____

Recorder/Reporter: _____

Analyzer/Innovator: _____

Harmonizer: _____

Gatekeeper: _____

Networker: _____

HOUR: _____

1.

WA --- Chaucerian Shadowing

You will observe a stranger for 5-10 minutes. This must be someone you know absolutely nothing about. You and a partner may even elect to observe the same person from different angles and later get together and share the similarities and differences in your individual observations.

While watching this person, you are to jot down everything that you notice about his or her "outsides"-physical appearance or features, body language and mannerisms, the tone of voice, diction, and way the person talks, the way the person dresses, hairstyle, jewelry, other objects or possessions he or she has, what type of people interact with this person as well as their reactions to this person and vice versa, etc.

As you are jotting down notes, you are to make predictions (based solely on appearances and the things listed above) about what this person is like.

Here is a list of possibilities for your predictions. Circle any of interest.

- a. How old is this person?
- b. Why he/she is sitting/standing, etc. there? What kind of day has this person had so far?
- c. What do the clothes this person is wearing today say about who he or she is?
- d. What do the objects this person carries tell you about him/her? What is his or her most prized possession?
- e. What type of home life and family does this person have?
- f. Where does this person live? What kind of dwelling?
- g. Does this person drive? Own his/her own car? What type of car? What type of driver is this person? Has he or she ever gotten a ticket?
- h. Does this person own a pet? What type? What would he or she name the pet(s)?
- i. What are this person's friends like?
- j. Is he or she involved in a relationship with a significant other right now? How's that going?
- k. What political stance does this person have? this person's parents? For whom would this person vote for in the next election or in a previous election?
- l. What kind of student is he/she? Predict this person's GPA.
- m. What are this person's favorite/least favorite classes? Has he or she ever been truant?
- n. What is this person's family's income? What do his or her parents do for a living?
- o. What career does it seem this person may potentially have?
- p. What are this person's hobbies? What do his or her parents do for a weekend?
- q. What are this person's hobbies?
- r. How does he/she deal with stress/ fear/celebration, etc.?
- s. Predict how this person would spend spring break? Senior year spring break?
- t. Will he or she marry? Have kids? If so, what kind of parent will he/she be?

Location(s): _____

Start time: _____

Stop time: _____

Possible name of stranger: _____

Probable age of stranger: _____

Observation notes and predictions:

AT THE BOTTOM OF THE PAGE (do this when you are done recording and predicting), JOT DOWN YOUR COMMENTS ON AND REACTIONS TO DOING THIS ACTIVITY.

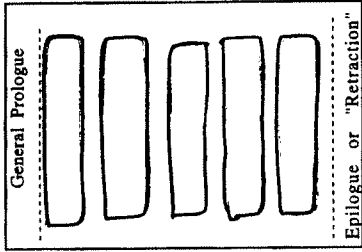
ON THE BACK SIDE OF YOUR JOURNAL, RESPOND TO EACH OF THESE:

- a. Look at what you are wearing/carrying with you today. If you were to reverse roles and have some stranger observe you for 5-10 minutes, write down what you would predict he or she would notice/jot down, etc., and what predictions your observer would make about you.

- b. Jot down any memories you have of either personally being "judged" by your appearance(s) or of watching someone else be judged by appearances.

SAVE THIS SPACE FOR BACKGROUND NOTES ON CHAUCER AND "CANTERBURY TALES"

1. Geoffrey Chaucer



2. "Canterbury Tales"

SMALL GROUP DEBRIEF ON Chaucerian Shadowing WA:

Take out your "Chaucerian Shadowing" journal entry you just completed.

- a. Go around the circle and share responses to the following:
What did it feel like doing this? Was it fun? "icky"? interesting or intriguing?

JOT DOWN SOME RESPONSES FROM YOUR GROUP HERE:

- b. Going around the circle, have each person describe the person observed (and his or her possible name) and the location and activities observed, the observations, and the predictions made.

- 3. Brainstorm a list of other likely or unlikely places all the strangers you shadowed (or any other strangers from all different walks of life) might gather for an extended period of time (extended enough for you to observe them and make more qualified predictions and extended enough for them to get to know each other). In other words, think about places strangers all might happen to gather which might cause likely (even unlikely) match-ups/conversations between them.

Example: a physician's waiting room or in a stuck elevator

Our group's original ideas:

- 4. Now, focus on your Chaucer's life and times background notes WA. Based on your notes and thoughts on this material, go round-robin and have each group member share something that was of interest to him or her. Try not to repeat any ideas already stated. What kind of guy does Chaucer seem to be? Below, have the group recorder jot down some of the important/interesting ideas that surfaced in this discussion.

- 5. Chaucer is often read in history courses because Canterbury Tales provides a unique look at a cross-section of Medieval society. Using the diagram below, label 5 levels of Medieval society in the left column. Then in the right column, list the modern equivalents.

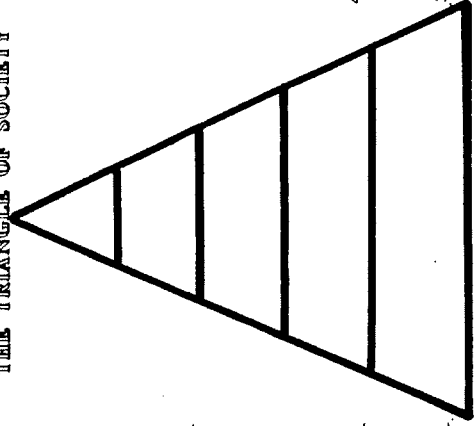
THE TRIANGLE OF SOCIETY

MEDIEVAL LEVELS

- 1. _____
- 2. _____
- 3. _____
- 4. _____
- 5. _____

MODERN LEVELS

- 1. _____
- 2. _____
- 3. _____
- 4. _____
- 5. _____



6. Without using a dictionary, do your best to define the word/concept of

physiognomy:

Also, jot down a few examples of physiognomy here: _____

Leave this part open for class notes on **PHYSIOGNOMY**:

Examples of physiognomy in "Canterbury Tales":
 character feature(s) possible interpretation

- a. the wife of Bath: _____
- b. the miller: _____
- c. the reeve: _____
- d. the pardoner: _____
- e. the cook: _____
- f. _____
- g. _____

7. As best as your group can, jot down what your group knows, remembers from a psychology class, or predicts about what is meant by the

humors (from the Latin "umor")

element	property	humor	temperament
		blood	sanguine: (extrovert)
		yellow bile	choleric: (extrovert)
		black bile	melancholy: (introvert)
		phlegm	phlegmatic: (introvert)

Leave this part open for class notes on the **HUMORS**:

Examples connected with the concept of the HUMORS in "Canterbury Tales:

- a. the physician: _____
- b. the franklin: _____
- c. Chanticleer in "The Nun's Priest's Tale": _____
- d. _____

8. FIRST IMPRESSIONS OF THE "GENERAL PROLOGUE"

Go around the circle and share each individual group member's "first impressions of the Prologue. Some ideas you might offer to the group are your comments on:

- a. Readability? How was that Middle English version?
- b. Overall, what grabbed you?
- c. What didn't?
- d. Assuming you're already "hooked on Chaucer," how would you convince someone to give Chaucer a try?

JOT DOWN SOME GROUP REACTIONS HERE:

9. CHAUCER'S CHARACTERS

Chaucer has been called a master at characterization. Think about his characters and which ones were your favorites? WHY? Which ones stood out in your mind? Which ones would you like to discuss in large group?

- a. Circle your group favorites listed in the list below.
 --->Report your group favorites to your teacher right now.
- b. Also, UNDERLINE CHARACTERS WHOSE OCCUPATIONS PUZZLE YOUR GROUP.

PROLOGUE CHARACTERS

- priest p. 10
 - miller p. 11
 - friar p. 5
 - Wife of Bath p. 9
 - plowman p. 11
 - cleric p. 6
 - quire p. 2
 - franklin p. 7
 - prioresse p. 3
 - shipman (sailor) p. 8
 - summoner p. 12
 - knight p. 1
 - yeoman p. 2
 - merchant p. 6
 - physician (doctor) p. 8
 - lawyer p. 7
 - monk p. 4
- the guildsmen:
- a. haberdasher p. 7
 - b. dyer p. 7
 - c. weaver p. 7
 - d. carpenter p. 7
 - e. tapestry-maker p. 8
- manciple p. 11
- cook p. 8
- nun (a.k.a. prioress) p. 3
- another nun (a.k.a. prioress's chaplain) p. 4
- 3 priests for the prioress and her chaplain p. 4
- pardoner p. 13
- host (Harry Bailey) p. 15
- Chaucer

10. TALK ABOUT YOUR INDIVIDUALLY ASSIGNED CHARACTERS

Go around the circle and in your own words (rather than reading your WA), introduce each of your assigned characters.

Think about Chaucer's characters, making the same types of predictions you did for the stranger you shadowed.

For example,

- Can you imagine the Miller be in a healthy relationship?
- Would the squire be admitted to NHS?
- Would the Wife of Bath be a Democrat?
- Can you imagine the Knight ever forging a pass?

11. VARIETY OF OCCUPATIONAL GROUPINGS

Reflect on the variety of occupations mentioned in "Canterbury Tales." Think about how some of these occupations are similar. Even though some of these characters have different jobs, would they work together in any way? What patterns do you see?

List some possible occupational groupings here:

Now, go back to the triangle on page 8. In pencil, make your best group attempt at placing as many occupations as possible in their proper level or rung of the medieval societal triangle.

12. CHAUCER'S VIEWS/BIASES ON THE CHARACTERS

Chaucer is a master at subtlety of characterization. Go back and look carefully at the characters your individual group members were assigned. Do try to "read between the lines." Look as much at what Chaucer does say as well as what he doesn't say. Decide whether Chaucer appears critical or sympathetic of each character your group was assigned.

- In the left column, list those which seem to get his approval.
- In the middle column, list those Chaucer seems rather neutral about.
- In the far right column, list those Chaucer seems to disapprove of or sheds some speculation about.

NOTE: Be ready to supply evidence of why you put each character in which column!

Chaucer seems to approve of these:	Chaucer seems neutral towards these:	Chaucer disapproves of these:

13. Think about HOW Chaucer creates his characters.

The marvelous way Chaucer makes his characters come alive is due, in part, to his inclusion of some of the same categories of description for every pilgrim. Come up with 5 different categories. Beside each, give an example pilgrim whose description is a strong representation of this category.

HINT! THIS LIST IS IMPORTANT FOR THE CHAUCER PAPER!

Category	Example Character	On page #
1.) _____	_____	_____
2.) _____	_____	_____
3.) _____	_____	_____
4.) _____	_____	_____
5.) _____	_____	_____
other ideas (from large group):		
6.) _____	_____	_____
7.) _____	_____	_____

14. UNANSWERED QUESTIONS OR COMMENTS ON TODAY'S GROUP WORK?

