

Welcome to English 4



Summer Reading Assignment

Over the summer, each senior will read parts of Chaucer's *The Canterbury Tales*. **Everyone** will read "The Prologue." Then, each senior will choose to read **two** of the following tales:

1. "The Knight's Tale"
2. "The Nun's Priest's Tale"
3. "The Pardoner's Tale"
4. "The Wife of Bath's Tale"

Complete the study guide given out by the Junior English teachers. Study guides will also be available on the HCHS website. Complete "The Prologue" section and the sections for two other tales. (Your choice!) This assignment should be completed before school begins. **Reading will be assessed** during the first weeks of school. Also, a **research project** will be assigned during the first week of school that will be due at the end of the first month of school.

A modern translation of *The Canterbury Tales* can be found on sparknotes.com under the "No Fear" tab. We suggest this resource to read the tales because this modern translation is much easier to understand. The book may also be checked out from the Media Center.

The Canterbury Tales Study Guide
English IV – Summer 2018

The Prologue

1. Who did the narrator meet at the Tabbard Inn?
2. Why was everyone at the Tabbard?
3. What were they going to Canterbury to see?
4. Describe the Knight.
5. Describe the Squire.
6. Describe the Yeoman.
7. Describe the Prioress
8. What other people were in the Nun's group?
9. Describe the Monk.
10. Describe the Friar.
11. Describe the Merchant.
12. Describe the Clerk.
13. Describe the Sergeant At Law.
14. Describe the Franklin.
15. What tradesmen were there?
16. Describe the Cook.
17. Describe the Shipman.
18. Describe the Doctor.
19. Describe the Wife of Bath.
20. Describe the Parson.
21. Describe the Miller.
22. Describe the Manciple.
23. Describe the Plowman.
24. Describe the Reeve.
25. Describe the Pardoner.
26. Describe the Summoner.
27. Describe the Host.
28. What game does the host propose to the pilgrims?

The Knight's Tale

1. How did Arcita and Palamon become Theseus's prisoners?
2. About what did Arcita and Palamon argue in the tower when they were prisoners?
3. Why was Arcita released from prison?
4. What was the one condition of Arcita's release?
5. How and why did Arcita return to Athens?
6. How did Palamon get out of prison?
7. Why did Theseus spare the lives of Palamon and Arcita when they were fighting in the woods?
8. What solution to the knights' problem did Theseus have?
9. Who won the battle for Emily's hand?
10. What happened to Arcita?
11. How did Palamon come to be married to Emily?

The Nun's Priest's Tale

1. Identify Chanticleer and Pertelote.
2. What was Chanticleer's dream?
3. To what did Pertelote attribute dreams?
4. What was Pertelote's suggested remedy?
5. Explain the significance of the Latin phrase that Chanticleer tells Pertelote means "Woman is man's delight and all his bliss."
6. Summarize the story of the shipmates.
7. State the reason for Chanticleer's stories to Pertelote.
8. Why did the fox flatter Chanticleer?
9. What happened to Chanticleer?
10. How did Chanticleer escape?

The Pardoner's Tale

1. Of what use is the bone?
2. For what use is the mitten and under what condition will it work?
3. Describe the "trick" which has been worth a hundred marks a year to the Pardoner.
4. What is the Pardoner's purpose? What is he supposed to do?
5. What is ironic about how the Pardoner gets people to repent from the sin of avarice?
6. What bargain or agreement did the rioters make at the tavern?
7. They met an old man as they began their journey. What was the old man's problem?
8. Where does the old man send the rioters?
9. What did they find where the old man sent them?
10. Why did they have to bring the treasure home at night?
11. Why was one youth sent to town?
12. What plan did the two other youths make to kill the one when he returned from town?
13. What plan did the one who went to town make to kill the two others when he got back?
14. Who died, and how did it happen?

The Wife of Bath's Tale

1. What does the Wife of Bath think of marriage?
2. How many husbands has the Wife of Bath had?
3. The Wife of Bath talks about Solomon, Abraham, Jacob, and others from the Bible. What is her point?
4. On what commandment does the Wife of Bath like to dwell?
5. What is the Wife of Bath's complaint about husbands?
6. "No empty-handed man can lure a bird," said the Wife of Bath. Explain what she meant.
7. The Wife of Bath says she was her fourth husband's purgatory. Explain.
8. The Wife's fifth husband beat her. Why did she stay with him?
9. What lies did the Wife of Bath tell Johnny?
10. What book did Johnny like to read?
11. What was the result of the fight between the Wife of Bath and her fifth husband?

12. Why did the Friar promise to tell a tale poking fun at a Summoner?
13. What did the knight do to warrant the punishment of beheading?
14. Who saved the knight, and under what condition was he let go?
15. What deal did he make on his way home after the year was almost ended?
16. What was the answer to the Queen's question?
17. What did the woman ask of the knight in return for saving his life?
18. The knight kept his word and married her, but he was miserable. What options did the old woman give him?
19. What did the knight choose?
20. Why did the old woman promise him both beauty and fidelity?