The Prologue To The Canterbury Tales

A Tapestry of Tales Unveiled: Reflecting on Chaucer's Prologue

The air hangs thick with the scent of roasted meats and ale, the chatter of pilgrims rising like a chorus in the spring. We are transported, not to a medieval inn, but to the very heart of Chaucer's *Canterbury Tales* – a masterpiece crafted not just from stories, but from the vibrant tapestry of human experience woven into its prologue. This seemingly simple to a collection of tales reveals a profound insight into the human condition, offering a window into medieval society, storytelling, and the enduring power of the human spirit. The prologue, in its meticulously detailed portraits of the pilgrims, isn't merely a preface; it's a microcosm of the entire work. Chaucer, with a masterful touch, paints a vivid picture of a world brimming with contradictions, humor, and humanity. From the boisterous Knight to the sly Summoner, each character is a study in contrasts, revealing the rich

diversity of medieval life.

The Microcosm of Medieval Society

Social Stratification and Hierarchy

The pilgrims represent a cross-section of medieval society, ranging from the aristocratic Knight to the humble Parson. This stratified society is vividly portrayed through their attire, occupations, and mannerisms. The Prologue serves as a potent social commentary, showcasing the stark differences in wealth, power, and social standing. | Social Class | Representative Characters | Traits & Descriptions | |||| | Nobility | Knight, Squire | Honourable, well-respected, often associated with chivalry. | | Clergy | Friar, Monk, Pardoner | Varying degrees of piety and corruption. Demonstrate both religious devotion and self-interest. | | Tradesmen | Merchant, Manciple, Cook | Practical and worldly; focus on the pursuit of wealth, often associated with cunning. | | Peasants/Labourers | Plowman, Reeve | Often portrayed as hardworking but unassuming; less emphasis on personal vanity. | The inclusion of these diverse figures isn't accidental; it reflects Chaucer's keen observation of the world

around him and his desire to capture the full spectrum of medieval society.

Moral and Religious Values

The influence of the Church permeates the Prologue, evident in the many pilgrims associated with religious roles. However, Chaucer also subtly critiques the moral and spiritual state of the Church, showcasing characters who prioritize personal gain over religious duty.

Everyday Life and Activities

The prologue vividly depicts the daily life of the time. We see the bustle of travel, the anticipation of a journey, and the mundane aspects of the pilgrims' lives. This grounded aspect of the prologue connects us to the experiences of those who lived during the medieval period.

The Art of Storytelling

The Framework of the Tales

The prologue sets the stage for a series of tales told within the framework of a pilgrimage to Canterbury Cathedral. This organizational structure lends a sense

of unity and purpose to the narrative, facilitating the sharing of stories across a diverse and dynamic group. The journey itself becomes a central theme, symbolising the journey of life and the exploration of human experience.

The Diversity of Narratives

The prologue showcases the diversity of narratives that follow. Each pilgrim carries a unique perspective and a different story to tell, showcasing the richness and complexity of human experience. The variety of stories promises a multifaceted exploration of the world.

Literary Excellence

Chaucer's Mastery of Language

Chaucer's poetic language is a highlight of the Prologue. His vivid descriptions and insightful characterizations are testament to his mastery of the English language during that period. He skillfully weaves together prose and poetry, creating a unique and engaging style.

The Role of Humor and Satire

Chaucer's humor is evident throughout the Prologue. He uses satire to critique societal flaws and human foibles. This element adds depth and complexity to the work, while making it accessible and engaging for readers today.

Conclusion

Chaucer's Prologue to the *Canterbury Tales* is more than just an ; it's a work of art that encapsulates the essence of medieval life and human nature. Through meticulous characterization, vivid descriptions, and a keen sense of observation, Chaucer offers us a rich and layered portrait of a world both familiar and foreign. The prologue encourages empathy and understanding, prompting reflection on the enduring nature of human stories and the universality of the human experience. The enduring appeal of the work lies in its ability to connect us to the past while resonating with our present.

Advanced FAQs

1. How does Chaucer's portrayal of the Church's imperfections influence the overall meaning of the

Canterbury Tales? 2. **What is the significance of the pilgrimage as a narrative device in shaping the tales' structure and themes?** 3. In what ways do the pilgrims' social classes shape their respective stories? 4. How does the interplay of humor and satire enhance our understanding of the characters and their motivations? 5. What are the enduring lessons about humanity and society that are conveyed through the prologue and its subsequent tales? This reflective journey into the *Canterbury Tales* Prologue reveals a literary masterpiece that transcends time and continues to captivate readers with its insightfulness and brilliance.

Welcome, fellow literature enthusiasts, to a deep dive into one of the most beloved and influential beginnings in English literature: the prologue to Geoffrey Chaucer's *The Canterbury Tales*. If you've ever encountered this masterpiece, you know it’s more than just an introduction; it’s a vibrant tapestry of medieval English society, a witty commentary on human nature, and a masterclass in storytelling. So, grab a cup of metaphorical mead, settle in, and let's explore this magnificent portal into Chaucer's world.

The Grand Opening: Setting the Scene for a Pilgrimage

Chaucer, often hailed as the “Father of English Literature,” penned *The Canterbury Tales* in the late 14th century, a period of significant social and political upheaval in England. The work itself is a frame narrative, a story within a story, where a diverse group of pilgrims embarks on a journey from the Tabard Inn in Southwark, London, to the shrine of Saint Thomas Becket at Canterbury Cathedral. The prologue, a cornerstone of this grand design, is where Chaucer introduces us to this motley crew, painting vivid portraits that have resonated with readers for centuries.

The premise is simple yet brilliant: to pass the time on their arduous journey, the Host of the Tabard Inn, Harry Bailly, proposes a storytelling contest. Each pilgrim will tell two tales on the way to Canterbury and two on the way back. The one who tells the best tale will win a free supper, courtesy of the rest. This ingenious device allows Chaucer to explore a vast range of human experiences, social classes, and literary genres through the individual voices of his pilgrims.

The Merriment at the Tabard Inn

Our introduction begins on a blustery April morning. Chaucer, as the narrator, finds himself at the Tabard Inn, ready to set off on his own pilgrimage. He serendipitously encounters a large company of “diverse folk” who have also gathered for the same purpose. It's here, amidst the convivial atmosphere of the inn, that the seeds of the storytelling contest are sown. The description of the spring setting, with its gentle rains and burgeoning life, sets a tone of renewal and anticipation, mirroring the fresh start the pilgrims are seeking on their spiritual journey.

The beauty of this opening lies in its universality. Who hasn't felt that sense of hopeful anticipation before embarking on a journey, especially one with a spiritual or transformative purpose? Chaucer taps into this fundamental human experience, drawing us immediately into the narrative.

A Gallery of Medieval Life: The Pilgrims

The heart of the prologue lies in its detailed and often satirical descriptions of the pilgrims. Chaucer doesn't just list them; he brings them to life with a keen eye

for detail, social commentary, and a healthy dose of humor. He presents a cross-section of medieval English society, from the nobility to the clergy and the burgeoning middle class. This is where the SEO power of this prologue truly shines, as it offers a rich lexicon of medieval occupations and social roles.

The Knight and His Squire: Nobility and Chivalry

We begin with the Knight, a paragon of chivalry and virtue. He has fought in numerous crusades, embodying the ideals of honor, courage, and piety. Chaucer’s portrayal is largely admiring, setting a noble standard for the pilgrimage. Following him is his son, the Squire, a young man more concerned with his appearance and romantic pursuits than with martial prowess, though he too is skilled in warfare. This juxtaposition of the seasoned warrior and the youthful aspirant offers a glimpse into the generational dynamics of the time.

The Yeoman and the Clergy: Service and Hypocrisy

Next, we meet the Yeoman, a forester in the Knight's service, depicted with practical details about his attire

and weaponry. Then comes the Prioress, a dainty and sentimental nun whose affectations and worldly concerns subtly undermine her religious vows. Her French is more elegant than Parisian, and she dotes on her little dogs, suggesting a certain superficiality. Chaucer’s descriptions of the clergy are often tinged with irony, as he exposes the gap between their spiritual ideals and their worldly behavior.

The Monk is another prime example. He’s a hunter, fond of fine clothing, and more interested in the pleasures of life than the monastic vows of poverty and contemplation. He argues that the rules of St. Benedict are too old-fashioned. The Friar, Hubert, is even more corrupt, openly soliciting donations and enjoying the company of wealthy women. He's more concerned with worldly gain than saving souls, a stark contrast to the ideals of his order. These characters are rich in keywords related to religion, monastic life, and medieval social hierarchy.

The Merchant, the Clerk, and the Lawyer: The Rising Middle Class

Chaucer then introduces us to the burgeoning middle class. The Merchant, with his forked beard and beaver hat, is shrewd in business, though his dabbling in debt

suggests a precarious financial situation. The Clerk of Oxford is a poor scholar, devoted to his books, whose only wealth is in learning. He speaks little but speaks with wisdom and formality, a refreshing change from the hypocrisy of some of the clergy. The Sergeant at the Law is a busy and respected legal professional, appearing busier than he is, a subtle jab at the appearance versus reality of some professions. These portrayals offer insights into the economic and intellectual shifts occurring in 14th-century England.

The Franklin, the Guildsmen, and the Cook: The Everyday Folk

The Franklin, a wealthy landowner, embodies the ideal of hospitality and enjoyment of life, his beard as white as a daisy, reflecting his well-fed status. Then we have the group of Guildsmen – the Haberdasher, Carpenter, Weaver, Dyer, and Tapestry-maker – who represent the prosperous artisan class, their wives eager to climb the social ladder. The Cook, Roger of Ware, is a skilled but somewhat unhygienic individual, known for his pottage and blancmange.

The Shipman, the Doctor, and the Wife

of Bath: Diverse Experiences

The Shipman is a hardened sailor, skilled in his trade but not above a bit of piracy. The Doctor of Physic is knowledgeable in medicine, but his profits are tied to his potions and his allegiance with the apothecaries. And then there is the Wife of Bath, arguably the most famous of Chaucer's pilgrims. A skilled weaver and traveler, she is outspoken, experienced in marriage (having had five husbands), and unashamedly worldly. Her vibrant personality and her willingness to challenge societal norms make her a truly unforgettable character, a key figure when discussing medieval women and social roles.

The Parson, the Plowman, and the Miller: The Common People

In contrast to the more corrupt members of the clergy and the ostentatious wealthy, Chaucer presents the Parson as a truly virtuous and humble priest, living by the Gospel he preaches. His brother, the Plowman, is an equally virtuous and diligent laborer, embodying Christian charity and hard work. The Miller, however, is a boisterous and dishonest character, a cheat who steals grain and tells vulgar tales, representing the rougher, more earthy side of society.

The Reeve, the Summoner, and the Pardoner: The Final Encounters

The Reeve, a thin and choleric estate manager, is skilled at his job but is prone to anger and is an embezzler. The Summoner, with his fiery red face and pustules, is a corrupt church official who extorts money from sinners. And finally, the Pardoner, with his yellow hair and smooth voice, is perhaps the most morally bankrupt. He sells fake relics and pardons, preying on the piety and ignorance of others. His description is particularly vivid, highlighting his effeminate characteristics and his greedy nature, offering a strong commentary on religious corruption.

Chaucer's Artistry: Language, Tone, and Social Commentary

What makes *The Canterbury Tales* prologue so enduring is Chaucer's masterful use of the English language. He wrote in Middle English, a dialect that, while different from modern English, is remarkably accessible and expressive. His vivid imagery, vivid characterizations, and rhythmic verse bring his pilgrims to life with an almost photographic precision. Keywords like 'Middle English literature', 'medieval

poetry', and 'Chaucerian language' are essential for understanding his impact.

Satire and Irony

Chaucer’s tone is often witty and ironic. He doesn't overtly condemn his characters; instead, he allows their own words and actions, as described by him, to reveal their flaws and virtues. This subtle satire is a hallmark of his genius, offering a nuanced portrayal of medieval society rather than a black-and-white depiction. He masterfully employs irony, particularly when describing characters whose outward appearance or status clashes with their inner reality. This is a key element when discussing 'medieval satire' or 'Chaucerian irony'.

A Mirror to Society

More than just a collection of amusing characters, the prologue serves as a comprehensive mirror to 14th-century English society. It reflects the social hierarchy, the religious practices (and abuses), the economic realities, and the everyday lives of people from all walks of life. From the noble Knight to the humble Plowman, each character represents a facet of this complex world. The diversity of occupations and social

strata represented makes this prologue an invaluable resource for understanding 'medieval England', 'social classes in the Middle Ages', and 'life in 14th-century England'.

The Legacy of the Prologue

The prologue to *The Canterbury Tales* is not merely a preamble; it is a complete work of art in itself. It’s an introduction that sets the stage, introduces compelling characters, and establishes a narrative framework that has captivated readers for generations. Its influence on English literature is immeasurable, shaping the development of narrative poetry and the English language itself.

Studying this prologue offers a unique window into a bygone era, reminding us that human nature, with its follies and virtues, remains remarkably constant. Whether you’re a student of literature, a history buff, or simply someone who appreciates a good story, the prologue to *The Canterbury Tales* is an experience not to be missed. It’s a testament to Chaucer's enduring genius and a vital part of our literary heritage.

The Prologue to The Canterbury Tales: A Window into

Medieval Society and Literary Innovation The Prologue to Chaucer’s The Canterbury Tales stands as one of the most vivid and compelling openings in all of English literature. More than a mere introduction, it functions as a richly layered portrait of late 14th-century England, revealing the social fabric, cultural values, and literary aspirations of its time. Written in Middle English, Chaucer’s Prologue sets the stage for a sacred pilgrimage journey, yet it transcends religious narrative to become a dynamic exploration of human nature, class diversity, and the power of storytelling.

At first glance, the Prologue presents itself as a formal dedication—Chaucer addresses his audience, outlines his purpose, and explains his position as a scholar and poet preparing to tell tales on the road to Canterbury. Yet beneath this structured introduction lies a masterful character study. Chaucer introduces a dozen pilgrims, each representing a distinct social stratum, from the high-born Knight to the humble Wife of Bath, creating a microcosm of medieval society. Through their descriptions—physical traits, occupation, and demeanor—he crafts a nuanced social mosaic, revealing tensions, aspirations, and moral complexities. This approach not only grounds the narrative in realism but also invites readers to reflect on identity, status, and the fluidity of social roles in a

changing world.

One of the most profound insights of the Prologue lies in its self-awareness and literary sophistication. Chaucer openly acknowledges the challenges of storytelling—his own limitations as a poet, his awareness of audience expectations, and the inevitable imperfections of human speech. By admitting that his tales may lack poetic perfection, he paradoxically elevates storytelling itself as an art form rooted in imperfection, authenticity, and shared human experience. This meta-awareness transforms the Prologue into a commentary on literature's evolving role, positioning Chaucer not just as a chronicler, but as a thoughtful architect of narrative craft.

The Prologue's enduring value extends beyond historical documentation. Its rich characterizations and thematic depth continue to inform literary studies, offering insight into medieval psychology, gender dynamics, and class relations. Modern readers and scholars alike draw from Chaucer's work to explore how storytelling bridges cultural divides, fosters empathy, and preserves voices across time. Moreover, the Prologue's open-ended invitation—"Whan they were ranged in compe"—echoes in today's narrative traditions, reminding contemporary writers and

creators of the power of diverse voices and inclusive storytelling.

Looking ahead, the Prologue to The Canterbury Tales remains a vital touchstone in both academic discourse and creative practice. Its blend of social insight, literary self-reflection, and narrative momentum ensures its relevance across centuries, inspiring new generations to engage with literature not only as entertainment, but as a window into the human condition. As both a historical artifact and a timeless narrative device, Chaucer’s Prologue continues to shape how we understand storytelling’s enduring role in society.

Unveiling the Tapestry of Medieval English Society: A Deep Dive into The Canterbury Tales Prologue

Geoffrey Chaucer's *The Canterbury Tales* stands as a monumental achievement in English literature, a vibrant and often humorous exploration of life in 14th-century England. At its heart lies the General Prologue, a meticulously crafted introduction that sets

the stage for the diverse cast of pilgrims embarking on their spiritual journey to the shrine of Thomas Becket. Far more than a simple character list, the Prologue is a masterclass in social commentary, characterization, and narrative setup, offering unparalleled insights into the medieval world and the nascent stages of modern English prose. This detailed analysis will delve into the intricacies of the General Prologue, examining its structure, its literary significance, and the enduring power of its observations on human nature and society.

The Premise: A Springtime Pilgrimage and a Literary Framework

The narrative framework of *The Canterbury Tales* is ingeniously simple yet profoundly effective. As the vernal season dawns, marking a time of renewal and spiritual reflection, a motley assembly of individuals gathers at the Tabard Inn in Southwark, London. Their common goal is a pilgrimage to Canterbury Cathedral, a sacred site associated with the martyrdom of Archbishop Thomas Becket. To pass the time and entertain themselves on the journey, the Host of the Tabard Inn, Harry Bailly, proposes a storytelling competition. Each pilgrim will tell two tales on the way to Canterbury and two on the return journey, with the

best storyteller earning a free supper upon their arrival. This convivial arrangement provides the perfect impetus for Chaucer to introduce his characters and their individual narratives.

The significance of the pilgrimage itself cannot be overstated. In medieval times, pilgrimages were a common and important aspect of religious life. They offered spiritual merit, a chance for penitence, and often, a welcome respite from the rigues of daily existence. By choosing this setting, Chaucer immediately taps into a universally understood cultural practice, allowing him to gather a cross-section of society under a common, albeit varied, motivation. The *Canterbury Tales setting* is thus crucial to understanding the thematic underpinnings of the work.

Chaucer's Narrative Voice: The Observant Pilgrim

Chaucer cleverly inserts himself into the narrative, presenting himself as one of the pilgrims. This narrative device, known as the *persona*, allows him to adopt an ostensibly objective and humble tone. He claims to be an unassuming observer, “nat reckelees” (not careless), but rather a keen observer of the

company. This self-effacing approach enables him to present his often unflattering portraits of the clergy and the gentry with a degree of detachment, softening the potential for outright criticism and instead fostering a sense of shared humanity and foibles.

The *Chaucerian narrator* is crucial to the reader's engagement. He invites us to share in his curiosity, his amusement, and occasionally, his moral judgment. His descriptions are rich with detail, capturing not only the physical appearance of the pilgrims but also hinting at their inner lives, their motivations, and their social standing. This nuanced approach to characterization is one of the hallmarks of Chaucer's genius, setting him apart from earlier storytellers.

A Microcosm of Medieval Society: The Pilgrim Portraits

The General Prologue introduces approximately thirty pilgrims, each vividly described and distinguished by their occupation, social class, attire, and personality. Chaucer masterfully employs a range of literary techniques to bring these individuals to life, including:

Irony and Satire: Unmasking Hypocrisy

One of the most potent tools in Chaucer's arsenal is

irony, particularly in his portrayals of religious figures. The *Prioress*, for instance, is depicted with meticulous attention to her table manners and her sentimental affectation, her "myche entencioun" focused more on worldly elegance than spiritual devotion. Her tender heart, which weeps at the sight of a mouse in a trap, is contrasted with a disturbing hint of antisemitism. Similarly, the *Monk* is a lover of hunting and fine horses, far removed from the austere vows of his order, his "yeman" and hounds a symbol of his worldly pursuits. The *Friar*, Huberd, is depicted as a charmer who exploits the poor for financial gain, more interested in procuring "flesh" than tending to souls. These portraits are laced with biting satire, exposing the corruption and hypocrisy that had infiltrated the medieval church. The *satire in the Canterbury Tales* is often subtle, relying on suggestion and understatement to deliver its most potent blows.

Social Stratification and the Estates Satire

The Prologue offers a fascinating glimpse into the rigid social hierarchy of the time. Chaucer presents pilgrims from various strata of medieval society, including the nobility (the *Knight* and his *Squire*), the clergy (the *Parson*, *Prioress*, *Monk*, *Friar*, *Summoner*,

and *Pardoner*), and the burgeoning middle class (the *Merchant*, *Clerk*, *Franklin*, *Doctor of Physic*, and various guildsmen). The *Estates Satire*, a popular genre of the period, is evident in Chaucer's subtle commentary on the roles and perceived failings of different social classes. He celebrates the virtuous figures, like the devout and humble *Parson*, while casting a critical eye on those who have strayed from their prescribed duties.

The Realistic and the Idealized

Chaucer masterfully balances the realistic and the idealized. The *Knight* embodies the chivalric ideal, a noble warrior of proven valor and piety. His son, the *Squire*, is a youthful romantic, skilled in warfare and courtly love. In stark contrast, the *Miller* is a boisterous, drunken, and dishonest character, whose physical description is as crude as his potential tale. The *Wife of Bath*, with her multiple marriages and assertive personality, is a complex figure who defies easy categorization. These contrasting characters highlight the diversity of human experience and the spectrum of moral behavior present in medieval society.

Literary Innovations and Enduring Significance

The General Prologue is a landmark in the development of English literature for several reasons:

The Use of Vernacular English

Chaucer chose to write in Middle English, the vernacular of his day, rather than Latin or Anglo-Norman French, which were the languages of scholarship and the aristocracy. This decision was revolutionary and instrumental in elevating English to a literary language. The *language of the Canterbury Tales* is rich, varied, and remarkably accessible, paving the way for future generations of English writers. His *Middle English prose* in the Prologue is a treasure trove for linguistic study.

Characterization and Psychological Depth

Chaucer's ability to create complex, multi-dimensional characters was groundbreaking. He goes beyond mere physical description to hint at the inner lives, motivations, and even the contradictions within his pilgrims. This psychological realism was a significant departure from earlier, more allegorical or stock characters. The *character analysis of Canterbury

Tales pilgrims* often begins with the vivid sketches provided in the Prologue.

Narrative Structure and Foreshadowing

The General Prologue not only introduces the pilgrims but also subtly foreshadows the nature of the tales they will tell. The proud and boastful *Miller* is likely to tell a bawdy tale, while the pious *Parson* will undoubtedly offer a moral sermon. This structural foresight creates anticipation and reinforces the connection between character and narrative.

Thematic Richness

Beyond its literary innovations, the Prologue explores enduring themes such as the nature of good and evil, the corrupting influence of power and wealth, the complexities of human relationships, and the search for spiritual meaning. The *themes in The Canterbury Tales* are vast, and the Prologue lays the essential groundwork for their exploration.

Conclusion: A Timeless Mirror to Humanity

The General Prologue to *The Canterbury Tales* is far more than a mere preface; it is a literary masterpiece

in its own right. Through its vivid descriptions, sharp wit, and insightful observations, Chaucer presents a panoramic view of medieval English society, exposing its virtues and its vices with a blend of humor and compassion. The pilgrims, with their flaws and their aspirations, continue to resonate with readers centuries later, a testament to Chaucer's profound understanding of human nature. By inviting us into the bustling Tabard Inn and onto the road to Canterbury, Chaucer offers us a timeless mirror, reflecting back not only the medieval world but also the enduring complexities of the human condition. The *legacy of Chaucer's Canterbury Tales* is immeasurable, and the General Prologue remains its captivating gateway.

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This accessibility reshapes habits. Reading becomes less about obligation and more about engagement. The book waits patiently, offering insight whenever attention turns back to it.

Over time, the presence of a reliable resource supports confidence. Questions feel less intimidating

when answers are close at hand.

Ultimately, the value of downloading *The Prologue To The Canterbury Tales* lies not only in convenience but in continuity. Knowledge remains present, adaptable, and ready to support growth whenever the reader chooses to return.

Questions & Answers About the prologue to the canterbury tales

No	Question	Answer
1	What's the main point of 'The Canterbury Tales' Prologue?	The Prologue introduces the vibrant cast of pilgrims traveling to Canterbury Cathedral and sets the stage for their storytelling competition, offering a snapshot of medieval English society.
2	Who is the narrator in 'The Canterbury Tales' Prologue?	The narrator is a fictionalized version of Geoffrey Chaucer himself, who claims to be accompanying the pilgrims and observing them with a critical yet often humorous eye.

3	Why are the pilgrims going to Canterbury?	They are on a pilgrimage to the shrine of Saint Thomas Becket at Canterbury Cathedral, a popular destination for medieval travelers seeking spiritual healing or divine favor.
4	What makes the descriptions of the pilgrims so interesting?	Chaucer's descriptions are remarkable for their vivid detail, often revealing the characters' social status, moral character, and even their personal flaws through their appearance and possessions.
5	How does the Prologue reveal social hierarchy?	By presenting a diverse group from different social classes, from knights and clergy to merchants and laborers, the Prologue offers a cross-section of medieval society and subtly comments on the prevailing social order.
6	What is the suggested 'game' the pilgrims agree to play?	To pass the time on their journey, the Host proposes a storytelling contest where each pilgrim will tell two tales on the way to Canterbury and two on the way back. The best storyteller will win a free meal.

The Prologue to The Canterbury Tales analysis, Introduction to The Canterbury Tales prologue, Background of The Canterbury Tales prologue, Historical context of The Canterbury Tales prologue,

Character introduction in The Canterbury Tales prologue, Setting the scene: The prologue to Canterbury Tales, The prologue as literary introduction, Medieval literature prologue: The Canterbury Tales, The role of the prologue in The Canterbury Tales, Context of the prologue to Canterbury Tales

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