

Classwork/Homework Packet for Semester 2, Week 1

Directions: Complete the following activities in ONE document and submit it to turnitin.com

Author Biography—Geoffrey Chaucer

Directions: After reading the article on Chaucer, complete the following activity. For Part A, write the letter of the correct choice on the line provided. For Part B, answer the questions using complete sentences on the lines provided. **(10 points)**

Part A

1. _____ Among other things, Chaucer is famous for
 - a. writing the *Decameron*.
 - b. dethroning King Richard II.
 - c. setting the stylistic standards for poets.
 - d. helping to turn French into the national standard for England.

2. _____ Among the positions held by Chaucer are
 - a. Page, Squire, Esquire to the King, King's Official Poet
 - b. Page, Squire, Member of Parliament in Kent, Clerk of Royal Works
 - c. Page, Esquire to Lady Ulster, Member of Parliament in London
 - d. Page, Esquire to the King, lumberjack, knight

3. _____ Chaucer's marriage to Philippa Roet
 - a. forged the patronage of Chaucer by the Duke of Lancaster.
 - b. forged the patronage of Chaucer by the Duke of Clarence.
 - c. encouraged King Edward III to pay Chaucer's ransom.
 - d. encouraged Chaucer to write *The Canterbury Tales*.

4. _____ The following influenced Chaucer's writing *except*
 - a. Petrarch, Boccaccio, everyday people he saw on the road, Shakespeare
 - b. Petrarch, Boccaccio, everyday people he saw on the road, Dante
 - c. Petrarch, Boccaccio, French poets
 - d. trips to Italy and France, his patron, books he read

5. _____ *The Canterbury Tales* appears to have been modeled after
 - a. The Bible
 - b. *The Tales of a Germanic People*
 - c. *The Decameron*
 - d. *The General Prologue*

Part B

6. Why was it considered good fortune for Chaucer to have been sent to work for the nobility?

7. How was Chaucer's choice of a bride particularly advantageous?

8. Compare and contrast Chaucer with his contemporaries in both style and content.

9. Chaucer was not a peasant, nor was he a member of the nobility. Explain how Chaucer's position in the social hierarchy was unique.

10. Chaucer's style is derived from the Italian and French poets he read and his stories are mostly ones that have been told by others before him. If you tried to submit someone else's story in class, you would probably be accused of plagiarism. Why was Chaucer not so charged? Predict what would have happened if Chaucer published his work today.

Vocabulary

Directions: Define and provide the part of speech for the following terms. **(5 points)**

alliterative verse:

vernacular:

aristocracy:

clergy:

peasant:

Reflection

Directions: Write a brief (7-10 sentences) paragraph in which you explain how *The Canterbury Tales* will differ from the other texts we have read this year. **(5 points)**