***THE CANTERBURY TALES***

PROJECT ASSIGNMENT

***The Canterbury Tales*** is a collectionof stories told by a group of travelers on their way to Canterbury on a pilgrimage to visit Thomas Becket’s tomb. Each traveler was **supposed** to tell two stories on the way to Canterbury and two tales on the return trip. Each of the storytellers was in competition with the others on the trip. Anyone who would not cooperate with the Host, who acts as the judge and referee on the trip, would have to pay the way of all the other travelers. Each traveler was trying to outdo the others by telling the best story. Chaucer used this framework (**frame tale**) to expose a cross-section of his society and to express many opinions about not only topics of his era but also about life and people in general.

**Task**:

In a group, write and perform a modern day *Canterbury Tales*.

**Process:**

1. In a group of 4, choose a **setting** for your pilgrimage (**time and place**), and decide where your group will make its **pilgrimage**,for what purpose (**what is your end goal**) and what is your method of **transportation**. **Please keep in mind, you must reach your destination (you can be a little creative here but don’t go too crazy now.) This section must be minimum of 20 lines.**

2. **Personal Character Prologue:** **Each character/student** will write a **15-20 line (prologue) description of his or her character in the FIRST person, including various traits, as well as the reasons for making the pilgrimage (Have questions, refer to Pardoner’s prologue). You will be referring back to the destination throughout each character’s prologue.**

**3. Personal Character Tale: Each character will write a 30-40 line story in third person**, again in Chaucer’s writing style, to be told to the group. (**Have questions, refer to Pardoner’s Tale**)

**Things to Think About:**

1. **How do your other characters can fit the moral (Remember it is the characters who drive the plot of the story….remember the old man from “The Pardoner’s Tale”)**
2. **Write all your description and dialogue so that it reflects the characters' personalities**
3. **Make up a situation where your character learns the moral**
4. **What obstacles will the characters face or cause in the story?**
5. **What ties those events of your story together?**
6. **Think of transitional ideas and actions as they can be used throughout the story as random**

**events or purposeful events(Things that may highlight the pros or cons of another character).**

**G. The events of your story unfold in a particular chronology (plot) and place (setting) so that**

**the reader can imagine and visualize (description) vibrant characters interacting in his story**

**world.**

**H. Chaucer has plenty of images and similes used throughout his works. But they are all simple,**

**direct, (as opposed to extended) and never elaborate. At the same time, they have vivid and**

**arresting quality.**

**I. Digression, (a shift of topic) which involves digressions to develop a point of view within the story (as**

**in the WOB’s story when inserting the Midas tale).**

**J. The opposito is another device whereby a fact is stated by denying its opposite (*For example the***

***Parson’s character is established by stressing what he does not have in common with the average***

***parish priests who run off to London in search of money by singing masses for the dead).***

4. The **prologues, introductions, and stories** must utilize Chaucer's style of poetry (rhyme, rhythm, approximately 10 syllables per line, use of literary devices such as Alliteration, personification, allusion, imagery) and storytelling, and **reveal a theme that is related to your character and the other characters involved in the pilgrimage.**

**5. Your story must be organized well to allow the reader to establish a good solid beginning, middle and ending to the tale…..do not leave the reader (myself and your classmates) guessing…**

**6. Make sure there are smooth transitions between each of the character’s performances.**

7. Each group will **perform** their "**Pilgrimage**" for the class. Each Pilgrim **MUST** dress and perform in character, and the group must transform the stage (scenery and props) to create the appropriate setting for your pilgrimage. The "**Host**" (**myself**) will determine the overall winner of the storytelling. The group with the overall best performance will receive breakfast catered by the Host. If needed or desired ,you **MAY** record your performance to be viewed by the class. Please understand the rules above are still applicable to your group).

**Evaluation:**

Groups will be scored by Ms. Senff according to the rubric, and a winning group will be rewarded.

**Timeline:**

1. You will have time to choose your groups and complete #1 & 2 above.

2. Your group will complete #3 (**Introduction**), and each member should have their Pilgrim’s Prologue and tale completed by \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**.**

3. Your group will meet briefly during class to discuss costumes, props, and your performance, and have a check on all parts on \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

4. Pilgrimage/performance dates: **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.**

**Layout of Presentation:**

* **Opening Introduction for story: destination, mode of transportation, reason for pilgrimage**
  + **Introduce each character individually through the character’s prologue**
* **After the character’s prologue, the character will begin his or her tale.. This will be done for all characters.**
* **Each character’s tale will be linked through use of the prologue and comments made by the upcoming character’s prologue/tale.**
* **The prologue created by the group will be broken up into several portions to move the story along, together with comments from various members of the pilgrimage.**

**Visual/guided Layout out (if needed)**

**Introduction of the Prologue**

**Person #1 Characters Individual Prologue**

**(Possible comment by another character- like an interruption)**

**Character’s tale**

**(Possible comment by another character- like an interruption)**

**Introduction of more of the Prologue**

**Person #2 Characters Individual Prologue**

**(Possible comment by another character- like an interruption)**

**Character’s tale**

**(Possible comment by another character- like an interruption)**

**Introduction of more of the Prologue**

**Person #3 Characters Individual Prologue**

**(Possible comment by another character- like an interruption)**

**Character’s tale**

**(Possible comment by another character- like an interruption)**

**Introduction of more of the Prologue**

**Person #4 Characters Individual Prologue**

**(Possible comment by another character- like an interruption)**

**Character’s tale**

**(Possible comment by another character- like an interruption)**

**Introduction of more of the Prologue- to end story and reach destination as well as to enforce MORAL**