 Welcome to the *CanterburyTales* Writing Palooza 

You have already read four of the supposed 120 tales written by Chaucer. Chaucer wrote in Iambic Pentameter. What does that mean? You will read more about it below and apply it into your own creative story. Now it is your turn to be the creative one and write your own Canterbury tale. However, there are just a few things that you **MUST** keep in mind and follow at all times when completing this daunting task.

Requirements:

1. The tale must **rhyme** throughout its entirety. If you have questions refer back to either “The Pardoner’s Tale” or “The Wife of Bath’s Tale.”
2. **Iambic Pentameter** is a line (usually poetry) that has ten syllables in each line, but the alternate syllable is stressed: (Ex: duh-DUH duh DUH duh DUH duh DUH duh DUH
 I **read** a **book** with**out** a **light** to**night**. = Bold words are stressed
3. Use **two** of the writing techniques listed below (**including the iambic pentameter**) used by Chaucer in your story (you can use more if needed and **must** be used more than once).

**You must have the first two, the ones with the stars:**

* the description whereby a character is described from the top to the bottom..a complete very detailed description….
* 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.
* digression, (a shift of topic) which involves digressions to develop a point of view within the story.
* 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).*
* Make a frame story
* Alliteration, personification, allusion, imagery
1. 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…
2. Choose a character **other** than the **Miller, Reeve, Pardoner, WOB** to be the narrator and to whom the story will most closely relate.
* Think about what personality your main character should have, he/she needs to be able to learn your moral
* Last but not least…. As a gentle reminder..the story needs to rhyme… yes rhyme… What did you think this was going to be that easy??

**Suggested Guidelines for creating the rough draft of your story**

1. Determine your audience.
* Is it everyone? Just adults? Children? Teens? Men? Women?
* By determining the audience you then can keep your wording and complexity appropriate for the age group.
1. What will the tone be? Ironic? Serious? Humorous? How will the writer accomplish that tone?
2. Where and when will your story take place (remember this takes place during the medieval times …. So no cars or airplanes or anything modern allowed..)
3. Determine the moral of the story (**Please try to be original**).. don’t make it so simple…must be something that a character can **learn**.
4. Think about how 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”)
5. Write all your description and dialogue so that it reflects the characters' personalities
6. Make up a situation where your character learns the moral
7. What obstacles will the characters face or cause in the story?
8. What ties those events of your story together
* Think of transitional ideas and actions as they can be used throughout the story as random events or purposeful events.
* 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.
1. Also, think about how you want to relay the message or moral.
* Do you want to go the preachy route and have the moral so in-your-face that the reader is spoon-fed? Should the moral be implied, hidden, or adaptable?
* When you write, make your audience knows that there is a storyteller behind the tale (the character from the prologue you have already chosen- think of the Pardoner’s and Wife’s tale).
* Write as though you are inviting them to listen intently to your tale..after all you are trying to will the dinner bet .. right???
1. Think of ways you have learned a similar lesson in your own life. Brainstorm ways to connect that with the spiritual or religious meaning behind the story.

**Points to remember**

1. There must be a **setting** for the story that correlates to the time period (NY didn’t exist back then… sorry guys!)
2. The **length** of the story needs to be between **four and five FULL pages**, double-spaced. The margins must be .5 on each side…so you can get more on a page. You will have to manually change the margins. Please make the font size 12 either Ariel or Times New Roman… my eyes will thank you ☺
3. Your story will need an origional title. ☺
4. Your characters **MAY** have names or **simply titles** (ex- pardoner or John/Alan in Reeve’s tale)
5. **Check** and **double check** your story for the necessary requirements **BEFORE** you turn in the final copy. Once it is turned in, there is no going back.
6. Oh and did I mention that these stories are going to be **shared** with the class… ☺
7. Above all, be **creative** and have a little bit of fun to it. While this is not an easy project, it is the most **creative** for you.
8. No foul language!!!!!!
9. Please have a typed copy for each person; also be prepared that one of those copies will be turned in to the teacher.