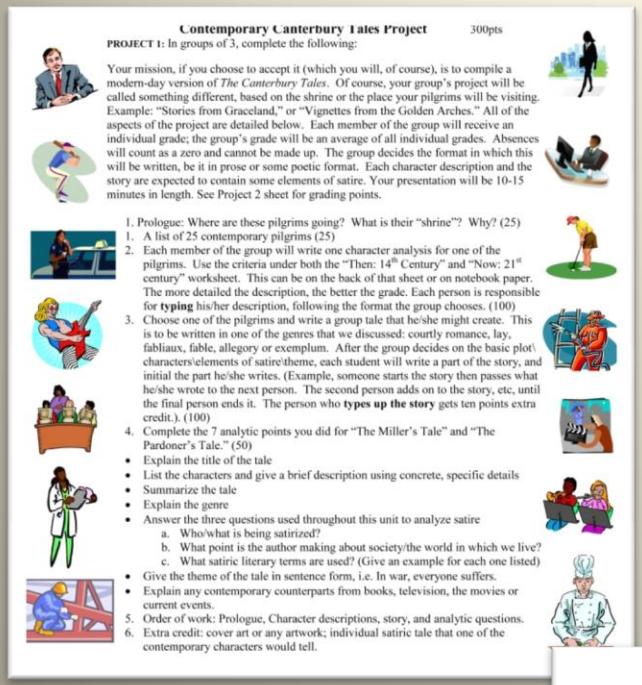
The Canterbury Tales Projects



Contemporary Canterbury Tales Project 300pts

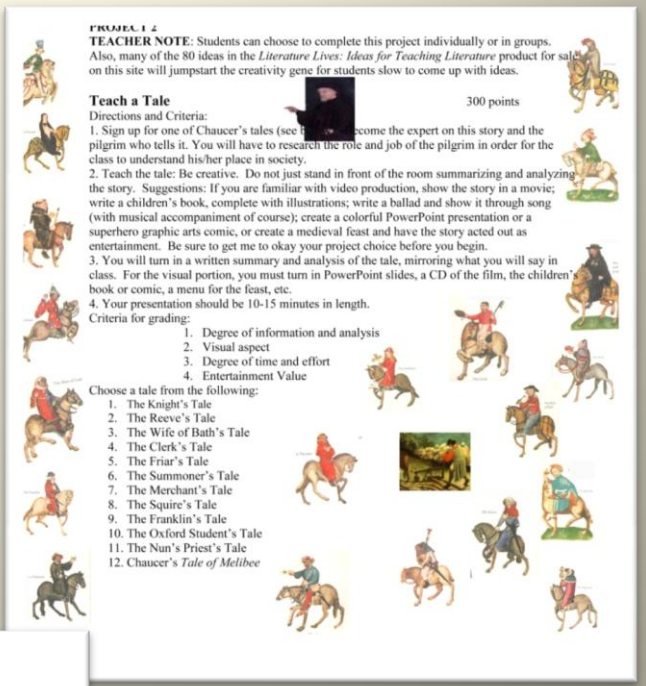
PROJECT 1: In groups of 3, complete the following:

Your mission, if you choose to accept it (which you will, of course), is to compile a modern-day version of *The Canterbury Tales*. Of course, your group's project will be called something different, based on the shrine or the place your pilgrims will be visiting. Example: "Stories from Graceland," or "Vignettes from the Golden Arches." All of the aspects of the project are detailed below. Each member of the group will receive an individual grade; the group's grade will be an average of all individual grades. Absences will count as a zero and cannot be made up. The group decides the format in which this will be written, be it in prose or some poetic format. Each character description and the story are expected to contain some elements of satire. Your presentation will be 10-15 minutes in length. See Project 2 sheet for grading points.

1. Prologue: Where are these pilgrims going? What is their "shrine"? Why? (25)
1. A list of 25 contemporary pilgrims (25)
2. Each member of the group will write one character analysis for one of the pilgrims. Use the criteria under both the "Then: 14th Century" and "Now: 21st century" worksheet. This can be on the back of that sheet or on notebook paper. The more detailed the description, the better the grade. Each person is responsible for **typing** his/her description, following the format the group chooses. (100)
3. Choose one of the pilgrims and write a group tale that he/she might create. This is to be written in one of the genres that we discussed: courtly romance, lay, fabliaux, fable, allegory or exemplum. After the group decides on the basic plot\ characters\elements of satire\theme, each student will write a part of the story, and initial the part he/she writes. (Example, someone starts the story then passes what he/she wrote to the next person. The second person adds on to the story, etc, until the final person ends it. The person who **types up the story** gets ten points extra credit.). (100)
4. Complete the 7 analytic points you did for "The Miller's Tale" and "The Pardoner's Tale." (50)

- Explain the title of the tale
- List the characters and give a brief description using concrete, specific details
- Summarize the tale
- Explain the genre
- Answer the three questions used throughout this unit to analyze satire
  a. Who/what is being satirized?
  b. What point is the author making about society/the world in which we live?
  c. What satiric literary terms are used? (Give an example for each one listed)
- Give the theme of the tale in sentence form, i.e. In war, everyone suffers.
- Explain any contemporary counterparts from books, television, the movies or current events.

5. Order of work: Prologue, Character descriptions, story, and analytic questions.
6. Extra credit: cover art or any artwork; individual satiric tale that one of the contemporary characters would tell.



PROJECT 2

TEACHER NOTE: Students can choose to complete this project individually or in groups. Also, many of the 80 ideas in the *Literature Lives: Ideas for Teaching Literature* product for sale on this site will jumpstart the creativity gene for students slow to come up with ideas.

Teach a Tale 300 points

Directions and Criteria:

1. Sign up for one of Chaucer's tales (see t[illegible]come the expert on this story and the pilgrim who tells it. You will have to research the role and job of the pilgrim in order for the class to understand his/her place in society.
2. Teach the tale: Be creative. Do not just stand in front of the room summarizing and analyzing the story. Suggestions: If you are familiar with video production, show the story in a movie; write a children's book, complete with illustrations; write a ballad and show it through song (with musical accompaniment of course); create a colorful PowerPoint presentation or a superhero graphic arts comic, or create a medieval feast and have the story acted out as entertainment. Be sure to get me to okay your project choice before you begin.
3. You will turn in a written summary and analysis of the tale, mirroring what you will say in class. For the visual portion, you must turn in PowerPoint slides, a CD of the film, the children's book or comic, a menu for the feast, etc.
4. Your presentation should be 10-15 minutes in length.

Criteria for grading:

1. Degree of information and analysis
2. Visual aspect
3. Degree of time and effort
4. Entertainment Value

Choose a tale from the following:

1. The Knight's Tale
2. The Reeve's Tale
3. The Wife of Bath's Tale
4. The Clerk's Tale
5. The Friar's Tale
6. The Summoner's Tale
7. The Merchant's Tale
8. The Squire's Tale
9. The Franklin's Tale
10. The Oxford Student's Tale
11. The Nun's Priest's Tale
12. Chaucer's *Tale of Melibee*

The Canterbury Tales Project Rubrics

Hardcopy Project 1 & 2 Rubric (300 points)

	18-20	16-17	14-15	12-13	11-Below
Information					
Analysis					
Satiric Aspects					
Grammar and Mechanics					
Entertainment Value					

Points____/100 x 3= Total____/300

Presentation Rubric (100 points)

	18-20	16-17	14-15	12-13	11-Below
Information					
Enunciation					
Poise					
Visual Aspects					
Time/Effort					

Points____/100

http://www.teacherspayteachers.com/Product/The-Canterbury-Tales-Projects

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