CISD District Summer Reading Purpose and Belief Statements

In Conroe ISD, we encourage all students to read over the summer in order to enrich learning and provoke thought. Summer reading strengthens reading skills, increases academic achievement, fosters a love for reading, and empowers students to become life-long learners.

Additionally, students who enroll in a Pre AP or AP English course are expected to engage in summer reading as it prepares students for the upcoming school year.

Spanish version:

En Conroe ISD, animamos a todos los estudiantes a leer durante el verano para enriquecer el aprendizaje y provocar el pensamiento. La lectura de verano fortalece las habilidades de lectura, aumenta el rendimiento académico, fomenta el amor por la lectura y permite a los estudiantes convertirse en aprendices de por vida.

Además, se espera que los estudiantes que se matriculen en un curso de Pre AP o AP de Inglés se involucren en la lectura de verano, ya que prepara a los estudiantes para el próximo año escolar y crea un marco inicial común para la discusión en el aula y la instrucción.
from the Canterbury Tales
The Prologue
Geoffrey Chaucer
translated by Nevill Coghill
For this assignment, you will be required to listen to the YouTube audiobook as you read “The Canterbury Tales: The Prologue”.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=l3YP2gupwKw

It’s only 42min long!! If you can sit through Avengers Endgame (which is 3hrs), you can listen to a 42min audiobook with ease. – READ/LISTEN for 10min a day, for 4 days, and it’s DONE!

Printed copies of the reading will only be available by request, or downloaded from the Caney Creek Website: http://cchs.conroeisd.net/
In addition, you are required to answer the attached discussion questions in GoogleDocs.

- Open a Google Word document,
- Type your responses in COMPLETE sentences,
- Include textual evidence to support your responses (quote, line, phrase, & pg. #)
- Then, share your document to ALL of the following English IV teachers:

ztaylor@conroeisd.net
jculp@conroeisd.net
rnance@conroeisd.net

In the upper left-hand corner of the document, be sure to include:

- your name (first & last),
- class (English IV),
- Summer Reading,
- and date in the upper

Due – 8/23/19
1. (Respond): Which of the pilgrims would you most likely like to meet? Explain why? (Be specific. What is it about the pilgrim that appeals to you, or that interests you. Why?)

2. List three characteristics of the Nun.
   
   (Draw a Conclusion): What details does Chaucer include in his description of the Nun to make gentle fun of her?

3. Identify two of the main characteristics of the Friar and the Parson.
   
   Compare and Contrast: What are some of the ways in which the Friar and the Parson differ?

4. (Make Inferences): Judging from the descriptions of the two, what does Chaucer think can cause a religious person to fail in his or her duty?

5. (Compare and Contrast): How does Chaucer’s attitude towards the Monk differ, if at all, from his attitude towards the Friar? (Explain)

6. (Apply): What modern character types match the characters in the Prologue?
   
   (Apply): Why would Chaucer not have anticipated certain character types?

7. (Analyze): From what segments of medieval society do the pilgrims come?
   
   (Draw a Conclusion): What does their participation in a common pilgrimage suggest about the times?

8. (Draw Conclusions): Judging from his pilgrims, do you think Chaucer believes people are basically good, basically evil, or often a mix of the two? (Give examples from the text to support your response.)

9. (Evaluate): Do you think Chaucer’s view of people is justified? (Explain)

Open Ended Question:

How does literature shape or reflect society? Explain what a description of clothing reveals about a character and medieval society. Use two of these Essential Question words: echelon, distinct, approbation, condemn.
"The Canterbury Tales... is actually a story about stories..."

Chaucer’s Guided Tour of Medieval Life and Literature

Rich people, poor people, stock brokers, artists, farmers, street vendors... with all of the different lifestyles in our culture, you may wonder what single event could gather together people from all parts of society. Geoffrey Chaucer found in his own society an orderly, even joyous event that gathered people from diverse backgrounds and occupations—a pilgrimage, or journey to a sacred spot. It is such a pilgrimage that gathers together the diverse characters in his masterpiece, *The Canterbury Tales.*

The Journey Begins Like modern travelers, medieval pilgrims must have been eager to while away their time traveling. Chaucer uses this fact to set his story in motion. *The Canterbury Tales* begins with a Prologue, in which the Narrator, presumably Chaucer himself, meets twenty-nine other pilgrims at the Tabard Inn, located in a suburb of London. As the pilgrims prepare for their journey, the host of the Inn, Harry Bailey, sets a challenge. To make the journey more entertaining, he suggests that each pilgrim tell two stories on the way to Canterbury and two stories on the return trip. The person who tells the best tale will be treated to a feast hosted by the other pilgrims. The pilgrims accept the challenge, and Bailey himself decides to join them and judge the competition.

Each of the following sections of the work consists of one of the pilgrim’s tales. Brief transitions, as one storyteller finishes and another begins, link the stories. In this way, the work is actually a story about stories, twenty-four different tales set within the overarching tale of the pilgrimage.

Snapshots of an Era In the Prologue, Chaucer sketches a brief but vivid portrait of each pilgrim, creating a lively sense of medieval life. In itself, the Prologue is a great literary achievement. As critic Vincent Hopper notes,

The description of the various pilgrims turn in rapid sequence from an article of clothing to a point of character and back again with no apparent organization or desire for it. Yet so effective is this artful artlessness that each pilgrim stands out sharply as a type of medieval personality and also as a highly individualized character...
Chaucer begins his survey of medieval society with the courtly world, which centered on the nobility. Medieval nobles such as Chaucer’s Knight held land granted them by a lord or king, for whom they fought in times of war. In the middle ranks of medieval society were learned professionals, such as Chaucer’s Doctor, and wealthy businessmen. The lower orders included craftsmen, storekeepers, and minor administrators, such as the Reeve and the Manciple. The various ranks of the Church, a cornerstone of medieval society, are represented by characters from the Prioress to the Summoner.

However, as Chaucer writes about character ranks and types, he presents them as real people, individuals who defy categorizing. For example, though all outward appearances suggest that the Merchant is wealthy, he is, in fact, deeply in debt—a secret he keeps from some of his fellow travelers. Such breaks in stereotype provide readers with an even greater insight into the daily lives of medieval people.

**A New Form** The popular genres in Chaucer’s day included romances (tales of chivalry), *fabliaux* (short, bawdy, humorous stories), the stories of saints’ lives, sermons, and allegories (narratives in which characters represent abstractions such as Pride or Honor). Each pilgrim chooses to tell a type of tale consistent with his or her character, and each of the major forms of medieval literature is represented. Chaucer wrote much of the *Tales* using his own form, the heroic couplet, a pair of rhyming lines with five stressed syllables each. For this innovation in form, along with his other achievements, he is known as the father of English poetry.

**The Endless Road** Traveling with Chaucer’s pilgrims, a reader may feel that the world is a big place but that, somehow, all of its pieces fit together. *The Canterbury Tales* reminds us that every journey from here to there is filled with stories, waiting to be told.

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**Chaucer’s Innovation in Poetic Form** With a small group, evaluate Chaucer’s change to poetic form and explain its possible appeal to medieval readers. Then, evaluate a new form or approach developed by a poet or songwriter of today.

**Modern-Day Travelers** Imagine taking a long bus or plane trip. With a group, discuss the types of people traveling with you. Come up with your own cast of characters for a modern-day version of *The Canterbury Tales*. Use these questions to guide your discussion:

- What different kinds of people make up our society today? Identify six types and build a character that matches each.
- What kind of tale might each character tell?

Choose a point person to share your ideas with the class.
From the garden lawn, Lakeview’s Grecian urn
On its pedestal, the beauty of the ages
Shone like a beacon, guiding lost souls.

The scent of jasmine, delicate and refined,
Drifted on the evening breeze, a fragrant symphony.

Silent observers, the statues keep watch,
Guarding the beauty of the past in their embrace.

The garden, a sanctuary of peace and serenity,
A place where time seems to stand still.

And in the heart of it all, the Grecian urn,
A symbol of strength and eternal beauty.

GENERAL PROLOGUE

A READER’S PRESCIENT EDITION

THE CANTERVURTH TALESS

GEORGE CHANCE
At the Tabard Inn, just south of London, the poet-pilgrim falls in with a group of twenty-nine other pilgrims who have not each other along the way.

Before that in that season on a day

In Southwark at the Tabard as I lay
Ready to wander on my pilgrimage
To Canterbury with full devout courage,
At sight was come into that hostelry
Well nine and twenty in a company

Of sunny folk by aventure y-fell
In fellowship, and pilgrims were they all
That toward Canterbury woulden ride.
The chambers and the stables were wide
And we were worn and at the best.

And shortly, when the season was to rest,
So had I spoken with them every one
That I was of their fellowship anon,
And made my stay to rise to
To take our way there as I should devise.

But meanwhile, while I have time and space,
Ere that this tale of mine, I will mention
Of me in all the condition
To fill you with the condition
Of each of them so as it seemeth me,
And which they were, and of what degree
And in what array that they were in;
And at a knight then will I first begin.

The Knight is the person of highest social standing on the pilgrimage. Though you would never know it from his modest manner or his clothes, he keeps his ferocity for crusaders' battlefields where he has distinguished himself over many years and over a wide geographical area. At the first sight, he is not "gay", that is, he is not showily dressed, but is still wearing the military padded coat stained by the armor he has only recently taken off.

A KNIGHT there was and that a worthy man
That from the time that he first began

To ride out, he loved chivalry,
Truth and honour, freedom and courtesy.

Full worthy was he in his lord's war,
And thereon he rode, no man bare
As well in Christendom as Heathendom
And ever honored for his worthiness.

His campaigns

At Alexandria he was when it was won.
First among all nations in Frisia.
In Lithia had he raised and in Russia
No Christian man so oft of his degree.
In Granada at the siege he had be
Of Algiers and ridden in Belgium.
At Leyin was he and at Salacie
When they were won, and in the Great Sea
At many a noble army he had be
At mortal battle had he been fifteen
And fought for our faith at Trimissene
In lists thrice, and as slain his foe.

This like worthy knight had been also
Sometimes with the lord of Palacie
Against another heathen in Turkey,
And ever more he had a sovereign prince.

His modest demeanour

And though that he was worthy he was wise,
And of his port as meek as is a maid.

Ne'ver yet no villany he said

(End of the story, courtesy.)

1 52-5: He had often occupied the seat of honor at the table of the Teutonic Knights in Prussia, where he was the most honored. Though he was not the most distinguished, he was one of the few who could be counted among the best of his time. His campaign list is probably idealized. The exact geographical locations are of little interest today. The context is generally thought to show a man of unflawed ideals; Jones (see bibliography) insists that the knight was a mere mercenary.

2 63: "In single combat (lances) three times, and always (as) killed his opponent."

3 64-7: The knight had fought for one Saracen or pagan leader against another, a common, if dubious, practice. And ever more ... may mean he always kept the highest reputation or that he always came away with a splendid reward or booty (prize).
A Private Place: a Utopia and a World

The text is not visible due to the image resolution.
The personal injury, the appearance

Emotion and expression and emotion,

Appearance, expression, and emotion.

Olfactory, visual, and emotional.
The water on your hands should be in a liquid form.

The water on your hands should be in a liquid form.