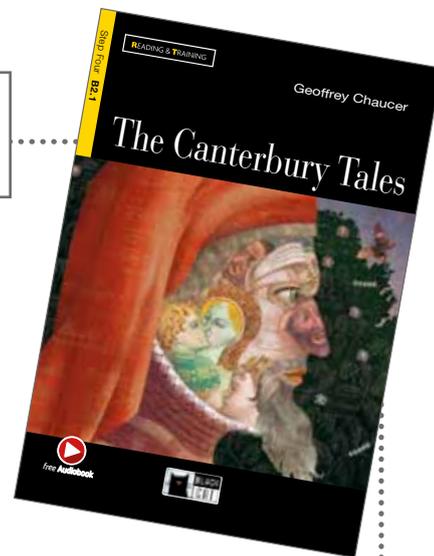


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B2.1

# LESSON PLAN 1/6



## THE CANTERBURY TALES

### Aim:

- to develop reading skills and expand vocabulary
- to predict the continuation of a story
- to identify a literary genre
- to encourage the pleasure of reading

### Expansive Reading Theme: **It's a Small World for Travellers!**

This cross-curricular feature allows students to explore the historical background, cultural connections and other topics of the dossiers or the text.

### Level:

B2.1

### Time:

60 minutes

### Materials:

1. front cover illustration of the graded reader *The Canterbury Tales*
2. worksheet – Parts 1 and 2

## INTRODUCTION

This lesson plan introduces Geoffrey Chaucer's medieval masterpiece *The Canterbury Tales*. The short extract chosen will draw students into the plot, encourage them to ask questions, develop their vocabulary, delve into the interesting characters of the tales and predict what could happen next. With the new special feature, the Expansive Reading Theme, students will enjoy exploring the topics of the dossiers and the text, with their cross-curricular approach. All of this with the aim of increasing their pleasure in reading a world-famous story about medieval English society of the 14<sup>th</sup> century.

## BACKGROUND NOTES ON THE STORY

*The Canterbury Tales* (1387-88) by Geoffrey Chaucer can be considered a masterpiece. This narrative poem depicts 14<sup>th</sup> century society in England through the stories and tales of a group of people on a pilgrimage to Canterbury, to visit the shrine of St Thomas Becket. During the journey each pilgrim must tell a story. Each pilgrim comes from a different social background and the stories reflect this.

## DISCUSSION AND PREDICTION

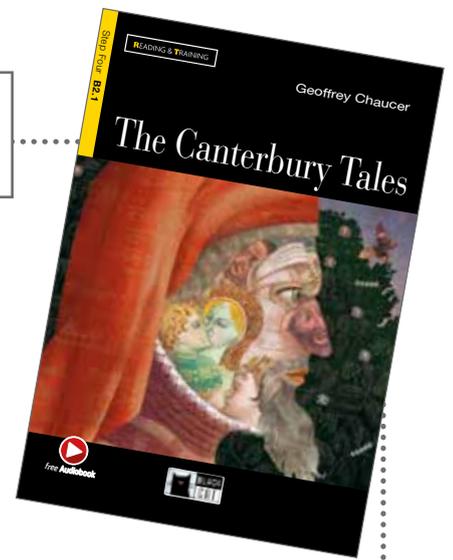
At this point there are some questions that need to be answered.

1. What is Geoffrey Chaucer's role during the pilgrimage?
2. Are the pilgrims both men and women?
3. Are the pilgrims from a religious order?
4. Do the pilgrims tell stories that are true or not?



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## LESSON PLAN 2/6



### PROCEDURE

#### Before the lesson:

- make a copy of the worksheet, Part 1 and 2 (one for each student)
- tell your students you're going to be speaking about a book called *The Canterbury Tales*.
- read the background notes on the story to the class

### PART ONE

#### Step One (10 minutes)

Ask the students to comment on their first impression and ask them these questions:

- What genre do you think it is?
- Do you know any other book by Geoffrey Chaucer?

Show the students the cover illustration and ask them these questions.

- Describe the man on the cover.
- Why are there so many different faces on the cover?

#### Step Two (30 minutes)

Give students the worksheet, Part 1, and explain that the text comes Part One, The Prologue.

Ask students to read it alone or in pairs for a more detailed understanding.

Ask students to do Activity 1, Comprehension. Then ask them to work in pairs to check their answers. (KEY: 1 T, 2 F, 3 T, 4 T, 5 F, 6 T, 7 F)

Ask students to comment with opinions, predictions, feelings and observations.



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## LESSON PLAN 3/6

**PART 2 :**  
**(20 minutes)**

**THEME** *It's a Small World for Travellers*  
Tell your students that the purpose of this theme is to make them part of "cross-curricular learning"; to connect what happened in the past to what is happening in today's world. Their comments and opinions are the backbone of this kind of learning. Ask them to read Part 2 and do the activity.

If there is no time in class, this activity can be done as homework.

