

The Canterbury Tales

Written by Geoffrey Chaucer

How is a story linked to its storyteller?

Group Time!

- We will be reading the General Prologue.
- Each of you will read one 'part', for example we will read 'The Knight' together and come up with a short description and picture of the character being discussed.

Be thinking about the essential questions: What is the interplay between the storyteller and the world? How is the story linked to the storyteller?

Who is Geoffrey Chaucer?

... Born in 1340 in London, England, known as the 'Father of English literature' and the greatest English poet of the Middle Ages. A man of many positions: poet, diplomat, and a royal clerk. He is a central figure in introducing the literature of the vernacular Middle English of that time when the dominant language in English were French and Latin.

... Among his many works: The Book of the Duchess, The House of Fame, and The Legend of Good Women, he is best known today for The Canterbury Tales.



Imagine that you were to be magically transported back in time to 14th century London. What do you think your everyday life might be like?

What are the Canterbury Tales?

These tales follow the story of a group of pilgrims who are traveling for holy reasons (and London is the starting point). The tales are a collection of stories that were told to each other on the way to Canterbury. It is a collection of stories that were told to each other on the way to Canterbury.

What is Middle English?

... Evolution of English in the history of the English language during the Middle Ages (11th to 15th century). It developed out of Old English and Old Norse. Middle English is a mixture of Old English and Old Norse. Middle English is a mixture of Old English and Old Norse. Middle English is a mixture of Old English and Old Norse.

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Sayer

What do you notice when comparing spellings between Middle English and Modern?

Chaucer wrote "And certifiably our language now uses words from French that were not used in Old English."

Is there an interplay between the story and the world?

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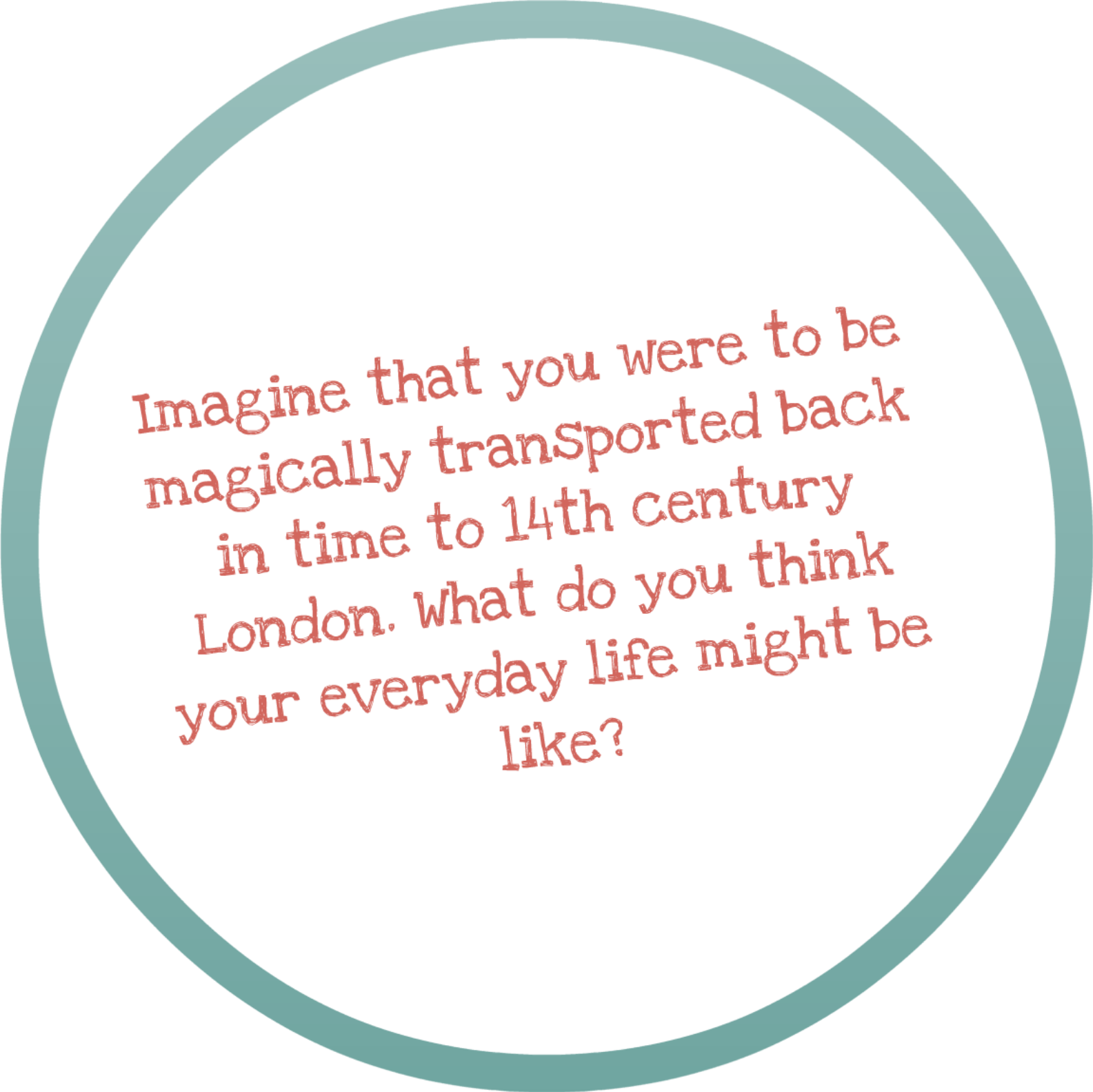
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YouTube

Who is Geoffrey Chaucer?

- Born in 1343 in London, England
- Known as the "Father of English literature" and the greatest English poet of the Middle Ages
- A man of many positions: served as an attendant to the king's daughter, a royal courtier, diplomat, and a bureaucrat. He is a crucial figure in developing the legitimacy of the vernacular, Middle English at a time when the dominant languages in English were French and Latin.
- Among his many works: The Book of the Duchess, The House of Fame, and The Legend of Good Women, he is best known today for The Canterbury Tales.

What are The Canterbury Tales?

- These tales follow the story of a group of pilgrims who are traveling the long journey from London to Canterbury Cathedral.
- Setting off from a London inn, the innkeeper suggests that during the journey each pilgrim should tell two tales to help the time on the road. A book of tales, a book of storytellers.
- Chaucer introduces us to a vivid cast of characters including: a carpenter, a cook, a knight, a monk, a prioress, a haberdasher, a dyer, a clerk, a merchant, and a miller.

What is Middle English?

- Dialects of English in the history of the English language during the Middle Ages (late 12th century to the late 15th century). It developed out of late Old English in Norman English.
- Written Middle English displays a wide variety of scribal forms. Middle English literature is rare (12th/13th), written communication was usually Anglo-Norman or in Medieval Latin. Middle English became much more important as a literary language during the 14th century, with poets such as Chaucer and Langland.

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Koude
Londoun
Pye
Shyne
Hootte Somer
Wyn
Berd
Spayne

*what do you notice when
comparing spellings between
Middle English and Modern?*

*Chaucer wrote: "...And
certaynly our language now
vSed varyeth ferre from that
whiche was vSed and spoken
whan I was borne."*

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