

# ★ Quicklook at Canterbury Tales - Prologue

An activity to encourage annotation, where something apparently very difficult to understand can be made sense of through a systematic series of guesses. You can decide at what stage to provide the glossary; we provided it after filling in Box A since in many cases pupils guessed meanings accurately. Any other extract can be used of course if you prefer.

## Canterbury Tales - Prologue -Language Chart

In Southwerk at the Tabard as I lay  
 Redy to wenden on my pilgrimage  
 To Caunterbury with ful devout corage.  
 At night was come in-to that hostelrye  
 Wel nyne and twenty in a companye  
 In felawshipe, and pilgrims were they alle,  
 That toward Caunterbury wolden ryde;  
 The chambres and the stables weren wyde,  
 And wel we weren esed atte beste.

	Late Middle English	Modern English	Comments
Words which have the same spelling in both Late Middle and Modern English			
Words which are almost the same but have an 'e' on the end.			
Words which are almost the same but are spelled differently			
Words which look similar but may have changed their meaning.			
Words which are unfamiliar.			

### Instructions

Work in groups of two or three. Go through the text and choose where the words fit on the language chart. When you have completed your research, fill in Box A to provide a word for word translation of the late Middle English. Use Box B to write a more fluent translation of the prologue. You do not have to write in verse.

### Glossary

aventure	adventure	chance
corage	courage	courage
esed	eased	made comfortable
sondry	sundry	different
wenden	wend	travel, go
wolden	would	desired to
wyde	wide	welcoming
yfalle	fallen	met together

### Box A

\_\_\_ Southwerk \_\_\_ Tabard \_\_\_  
 \_\_\_ Caunterbury \_\_\_  
 \_\_\_  
 \_\_\_ Caunterbury \_\_\_;  
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### Box B

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