

The Canterbury Tales

The Characters



You Are What You Do....

- “The General Prologue” of *The Canterbury Tales* introduces us to a number of different characters.
- These characters are "types" (that is, they are never given names, but rather identified by their profession and meant to symbolize one part of life in the middle ages.)
- Each character in the story represents a different segment of society in Chaucer’s time.





Chaucer Uses Characterization

- Through characterization, Chaucer reveals both the positive and negative traits of each of these characters.
- It provides social commentary of his time, gives us a clear insight into his society, its values, and its customs

Direct Characterization

- The writer makes direct statements about a character's personality and tells what the character is like.

- Example: Jane was a beautiful young girl. She had golden hair and blue eyes, which made her stand out from the rest.



Indirect Characterization

- The writer reveals information about a character and his personality through that character's thoughts, words, and actions, along with how other characters respond to that character, including what they think and say about him.
- Example: When Jane walked in the room, nobody could help but look at her stunning, gorgeous face. She commanded attention wherever she went due to her good looks.



Let's Practice!!

