

The Canterbury Tales Discussion Groups

Each group should spend some time thinking and planning through the following questions. Write out your answers; be prepared to share your thinking with the rest of the class and to turn in your written answers.

- 1) You and your group mates are going on a pilgrimage. Name 20 other people that you would like to travel with on a pilgrimage. Tell why you are taking these people with you. You, as a group, should agree on the twenty people that will be traveling with you.
- 2) Decide where your group will be going on your pilgrimage. This place can be anywhere in the world. Tell where you will be going and why your group wants to travel there. Are you traveling there for religious purposes, for healing, for peace, for entertainment, etc.? There are many reasons for traveling to different spots all over our world.
- 3) What time of the year is the best time to travel? Plan this out completely for your trip.
- 4) During the pilgrimage, how will your group travel? Will you go by foot, by horseback (like the pilgrims in *The Canterbury Tales*), by plane, car, train, ship? Decide how you will travel and how long (approximately) it will take you to get there.
- 5) What will your group do to pass the time? Go into detail about what events will take place during your travel time. Will you make the travel time into a competition, as we have read about, or will each member of the group have to decide for themselves how they will pass the time. If group members are going to be responsible for your own passing of time, be sure to tell how each member will spend his/her time during your travels.
- 6) Let's pretend that each of you, at some point during your first pilgrimage, will share a story with the rest of your group, for this is a common practice when people tend to spend a lot of time together. For this element, each member should give a brief summary of a tale that you will share with the other members of your group. This should be written down on individual sheets of paper and turned in with the rest of your answers. Remember, this summary should (as always) be rated PG-13. I do not want to hear about or read about anything that I will have to share with administration, that will cause you to receive a zero for this assignment, or that could possibly keep you from attending class for a couple of days! Will your tale involve you in the story or will your tale be completely about other people?
- 7) Make certain that on your paper all group members are listed. Make sure that all 20 people are listed and why they are traveling with you. Make sure your destinations and the reasons for those destinations are listed. Make certain that the time of year is listed and your mode/method of travel is listed. Make certain that your group tells how the group will pass the time and that each group member hands in a sheet of paper that tells about their individual story. Once all these requirements are met, you are ready to staple all papers together and put in the basket. Have fun with this assignment! Be creative! And do not be afraid to think outside the box!