Tale Master Project

Each student will serve as a Tale Master for one of the Tales during the semester.

Step One: Pick a Tale, post it on our wiki  
Due Friday, Sept 3.

Step Two: Read your Tale

- You are going to have to do this well in advance of everyone else. None of your research will make any sense of you haven’t read the actual Tale yet. You also have to take note of what parts of your tale might prove difficult to your classmates, so you can help them understand it.

Step Three: Research your Tale

- Start with our book and the notes and bibliography there. I’ve also gathered a Bibliography of useful items and put them on reserve in Helmke Library. Find more! At the very least, you should have five bibliographical items pertaining to your tale, not including things like our book, and “Introduction to Chaucer”-type books. Keep full bibliographical information on all that you find.

Step Four: Introduce your Tale

Due online Monday, Sept 27

- Write an introduction to the narrator and the tale, including a list of characters and brief plot summary. Discuss pertinent issues pertaining to the tale, the content of which will vary depending on the tale you chose, but may include: the sources or analogues to the tale, critical reception of the tale, how the tale fits into the whole of the Canterbury Tales. This must be at least 750 words (not including the additional items below)

- Write a series of discussion questions for the class to consider as they read the tale

- Select key passages you would like the class to spend extra time on, and perhaps call on them to translate from Middle English

- Conclude with your bibliography of sources used in preparing your Introduction

- Post all of this on our wiki before class on Monday, Sept 27*
• *If you choose to do one of the Tales we reach before that date (Reeve and Cook, Man of Law), you’ll have to have your project up a bit earlier. Talk to me if you are interested.

• Throughout this whole process, think about potential research paper topics

Step Five: Teach your Tale

• Each student will be in charge of the class the first day we reach their tale. The “Tale Master” will lead the class, introduce the text, lead discussion, and call on people for translation work

Step Six: Peer Evaluate

• Within a week of the Tale Master’s presentation, the rest of students in the class will anonymously evaluate that Tale Master’s introduction, posted online in the Comments section of the project

Step Seven: Research Proposal

Due online Monday, Oct 25

• As you prepare your introduction and pay attention in class, you’ll be wanting to think about a topic you could write a 10-page paper on. Feel free to talk to me about any ideas you might have. Once you have a pretty good idea, write a paragraph research proposal explaining what you hope to research, discover, and argue. Post this on our wiki before class on Monday, Oct 25

The Tales:

1. Reeve and Cook 8. Squire 15. Nun’s Priest
5. Summoner 12. Shipman
6. Clerk 13. Prioress
7. Merchant