

QUICK CARD: *THE CANTERBURY TALES,* *“THE KNIGHT’S TALE”*



Reference	<i>The Canterbury Tales, “The Knight’s Tale”</i> . Geoffrey Chaucer. (2003) ISBN: 978-0140424386
Plot	A Medieval knight entertains a group of pilgrims on the road to Canterbury, telling the story of a romantic love and jealousy that separates two friends.
Setting	<p>“The Knight’s Tale” exists within a larger body of stories, <i>The Canterbury Tales</i>, which are held together by a General Prologue (see Quick Card). This Prologue explains that a group of travelers on pilgrimage to Canterbury decide to amuse one another by telling stories along the way, awarding the best narrator a free dinner when they return. Each subsequent tale within the corpus represents one of these stories. Thus, “The Knight’s Tale” is the story the Knight tells on the journey.</p> <p>The Knight’s Tale Setting: Athens Prison</p>
Characters	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Palamon, lover of Emily and friend of Arcite • Arcite, lover of Emily and friend of Palamon • Philostrate, alias of Arcite in disguise • Emily, sister of Hippolyte, Queen of Athens • Theseus, just and wise ruler of Athens • Mars, god of war to whom Arcite prays • Venus, goddess of love to whom Palamon prays • Diana, goddess of wisdom and chastity to whom Emily prays • Saturn, god of Fate who doles out answers to the prayers in equal measure
Conflict	<p>Who will win Emily? What will become of these friends?</p> <p>Obstacles: One another - Man vs. Man The gods - Man vs. the gods or Fate Prison/Banishment - Man vs. Society</p>

<p style="text-align: center;">Theme</p>	<p>All's fair in love and war. Romantic love destroys friendship. The tyranny of the god of Love The perversity and deceitfulness of Fate The superiority of the chivalric code, its humanizing effects on society</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Literary Devices</p>	<p>Chivalric Romance</p> <p>Circumstantial Irony</p> <p>Imagery through Simile and Metaphor</p> <p>Hyperbole</p> <p>Dramatic Irony</p> <p>Mythological allusions.</p> <p>Symbolic Metaphor: Love a disease.</p> <p>The story itself serves to characterize the knight and his profession in Medieval society. It functions as a commentary on the chivalric code and its effects upon the individual and society.</p>