

The Canterbury Tales

Geoffrey Chaucer

What does Chaucer make us notice before he tells us what to think?

TOTAL TIME

PASSAGE

30 minutes	The Knight and the Squire
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FIND THE ANCHOR TEXT

Use the Anchor Text Table of Contents in the Enhanced Reader to open the START anchor. Then use the dropdown to select the END anchor.

SECTION / LOCATION	General Prologue
START	A KNIGHT there was, and that a worthy man
END	And carv'd before his father at the table.
PASSAGE ID	sec-10-the-canterbury-tales

THE MOVE

Infer character from selected details and contrast

WHY THIS PASSAGE

Chaucer characterizes the Knight and Squire by choosing what to notice: clothing, experience, behavior, accomplishments, and appearance. The contrast between selected details lets readers infer differences in values before the narrator openly judges either man.

MARK

Create two columns: KNIGHT and SQUIRE. Place each selected detail under the correct character, then label it APPEARANCE, EXPERIENCE, BEHAVIOR, or STATUS. Star the strongest contrast.

NOTICE

- What kinds of details does Chaucer choose for each man?
- Which details invite admiration without the narrator directly saying 'admire him'?

- How does contrast let the reader infer character before explicit judgment appears?

THINK

Answer provisionally: What does Chaucer make us notice before he tells us what to think? Choose the strongest interpretation you can defend from this passage alone.

WRITE

Write a short evidence-based response to: What does Chaucer make us notice before he tells us what to think? Use at least two details from the assigned passage and explain how they support your interpretation.

CLOSE

Name the single detail that most changed or sharpened your interpretation, and explain why.

STRONG ANSWER	Chaucer lets selected details do the judging. The Knight's worn clothing, experience, restraint, and conduct suggest disciplined service, while the Squire's appearance, performance, youth, and display create a different kind of identity before the narrator explains either one.
EVIDENCE	Compare concrete details from each portrait—clothing, accomplishments, behavior, appearance, or social performance. Strong answers infer values from the contrast rather than from labels.
WATCH FOR	Do not answer that the Knight is 'good' and the Squire 'bad.' Chaucer's method is selection and contrast, not a simple moral ranking.
SOLO	Read the exact passage independently.
SUPPORTED	Use narration and sentence highlighting while reading the same passage.
LISTENING	Listen to the exact passage; visual following is optional. Same question and evidence demand.

STUDENT PAGE · SAME PASSAGE, SAME THINKING

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What does Chaucer make us notice before he tells us what to think?

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OPEN THE MARKED PASSAGE IN TUMBLELIT

SOLO: read independently. SUPPORTED: use narration + highlighting. LISTENING: listen to the exact passage. The question and evidence task stay the same.

1. MARK - Create two columns: KNIGHT and SQUIRE. Place each selected detail under the correct character, then label it APPEARANCE, EXPERIENCE, BEHAVIOR, or STATUS. Star the strongest contrast.
2. NOTICE - What kinds of details does Chaucer choose for each man? Which details invite admiration without the narrator directly saying 'admire him'? How does contrast let the reader infer character before explicit judgment appears?
3. THINK - Answer provisionally: What does Chaucer make us notice before he tells us what to think?
4. WRITE - Write a short response using at least two pieces of evidence from this passage.

Use evidence from the assigned passage. Show what you noticed and how the text supports your interpretation.