

British Literature: Exercise 3: Justice

Based on your reading of the tales of the Knight, Miller, Reeve, Man Of Law, Shipman and Prioress, write a **five-paragraph essay explaining the different pilgrims' views of justice and what you think Chaucer's view of justice was. Include in depth analysis of the Man Of Law's and Shipman's tales as well as at least one other.**

Structure:

1. Begin with an **introductory paragraph** that explains the thesis (main idea) of your essay. Begin this paragraph with a general statement leading to essential background for your analysis. Introduce the work you're using as well as the pilgrims whose tales you will be discussing. In your **thesis statement**, the last sentence of the paragraph, state your main idea, which should indicate the general view or views of justice in The Canterbury Tales, i.e., what is Chaucer, the author, saying about justice?
2. Each of the **3 body paragraphs** should center on the view of justice in one of the tales we have read. You **must** devote body paragraphs both to The Man of Law's and The Shipman's Tales, and you should choose either The Prioress's Tale or both The Miller's **and** The Reeve's Tales (as they are a pair that go together) for the third paragraph. Feel free to discuss them all to win Brownie points. Each paragraph should begin with a statement introducing the tale and its view of justice, followed by evidence to demonstrate how justice is treated in the tale and whether and/or why you think it is appropriate to the teller of the tale. You may either paraphrase or quote. You should use many direct quotes in this essay. When using a quotation, be sure to explain its context (who was saying it and why) and what it means. Be sure to connect quotations to the overall idea of the paragraph. Also, be sure to include a parenthetical note for each quote or piece of evidence. End each body paragraph with a summary of its main idea.
3. After providing a minimum of three body paragraphs, close the essay with a concluding paragraph that ties together your main ideas. Your summary should connect the main ideas of the body paragraphs to show how they interrelate. It would be great to include The Knight's Tale's viewpoint(s) about justice here as well. In your last sentence or sentences, leave the reader with the main idea you want him/her to grasp about Chaucer's own view of justice. Consider carefully how to figure out what Chaucer thought when he presents multiple points of view from multiple narrators, and explain how you did this. Double check to be sure that your concluding thought is similar to your thesis statement.

Schedule:

Deadline: Thursday, September 25 by class time.

Revision Deadline: Monday, October 5 by class time, but earlier is better!

You **must** hand in the **question sheet(s)** for the tale(s) about which you didn't write in the essay on Thursday as well. See me ahead of time if you need help.