

First Quarter
Optional Assignment Two

The first 18 lines of *The Canterbury Tales* are some of the most important in all of English literature. Not so long ago, it was required of all graduating high school students to memorize these lines in their original Middle English. However, as memorization and recitation has fallen out of favor, this is no longer a common requirement of English students.

This optional assignment will require you to memorize these lines. I will give you two choices:

Option One

Recite from memory the first 18 lines of *The Canterbury Tales* in their original Middle English.

You must do this in front of me, or in front of the class (your call, but you must let me know ahead of time when you will do it), without the aid of notes. There are many videos on YouTube, of folks reciting the lines. Use these to practice pronunciation.

Your grade will be based on...

Accuracy of memory

Accuracy of pronunciation

Value: 100 points

Recite by Friday, 8 November

Option Two

Write from memory the first 18 lines of *The Canterbury Tales* in their original Middle English spelling.

I will provide you with some of the words; it will be up to you to fill in the rest.

Your grade will be based on...

Accuracy of memory

Accuracy of spelling

This must be completed after school on the following dates:

F-Period: Tuesday, 5 November

G-Period: Wednesday, 6 November

I will post a sign-up sheet for all who wish to take this optional memory quiz.

Value: 75 points