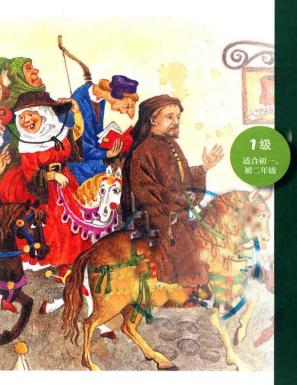


## 书 虫 - 牛津 英汉双语读物



## 坎特伯雷故事集

### Five Canterbury Tales

Geoffrey Chaucer (英)著 Bill Bowler (英)改写 Natalia Demidova (俄)插图 张黎新 译

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### AUTHOR <sup>关于作者</sup>

### **Geoffrey Chaucer**

Geoffrey Chaucer was born in 1343. His father was a rich wine merchant and his mother owned twenty-four London shops. At fourteen he left home to work as a page – or young servant – in the house of a rich woman, the Countess of Ulster. In later life, Chaucer worked for the English king. He was with the English army in France in the 1360s and made two visits to Italy for the king in the 1370s. In his free time he wrote stories and poetry, and he sometimes read these aloud to friends, but his writings did not appear as books until some years after his death in 1400. His 'Canterbury Tales' is one of the most famous pieces of early English literature.

#### 杰弗里·乔叟

杰弗里·乔叟生于1343年。父亲是位富有的酒商,母亲则在伦敦拥有24家商铺。14岁时,乔叟离家谋生,在一位阔太太——阿尔斯特伯爵夫人——家做侍从。后来,乔叟在英国宫廷任职。14世纪60年代,他曾随英军远征法国;70年代,他两次代表英王出使意大利。闲暇时,他写了很多故事和诗歌,有时还为朋友们诵读自己的作品。然而直到他去世(1400年)若干年后,他的作品才集结成书。他的《坎特伯雷故事集》是早期英国文学最负盛名的作品之一。

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## ACTIVITIES |

#### **BEFORE READING**

Find out about Geoffrey Chaucer's life.
 Circle the correct information.



- a He was born in 1343 / 1743.
- **b** His parents were / weren't rich.
- c He left home when he was 14 / 40.
- d He travelled to America / Italy a number of times for work.
- e He wrote his stories in Latin / English.
- f He was / wasn't a very famous writer when he was alive.

#### 2 Match each picture of a place in Five Canterbury Tales with a sentence.



a Athens



**b** Bath



c Brittany



**d** Canterbury



e the Thames



f Southwark



g Pavia



h Oxford

It's a city in the south-east of England, with a famous cathedral.	
It's a town in the north of Italy.	
It's the capital of Greece.	
It's a city in the south-west of England, famous for its waters.	
It's part of south London.	
It's the river that runs through London.	
	It's a town in the north of Italy. It's the capital of Greece. It's a city in the south-west of England, famous for its waters. It's part of south London.

8 It's a famous old city for students to the west of London.

7 It's part of the north-east of France.

## CHAPTER ONE AT THE INN IN LONDON

### 第一章 在伦敦的小酒馆



hen March finishes, the rains in April bring the first flowers of spring. At this time the sun is warm and, in England, lots of people go to

Canterbury, to the **tomb** of **Saint** Thomas Becket. There they thank the Saint for his past help when they were ill.

My name's Geoffrey Chaucer. It was 16th April 1386, and I was in London at an inn in Southwark, south of the river Thames. I was there with twenty-nine more people. We wanted to go to Canterbury the next day. But before I say more, I want to tell you about some of the people with me.

#### tomb

n. where people put a dead person 坟 菜

#### saint

n. a very good person 圣人,圣徒



First there was a Knight. He was a good man, and he **fought** well. He was never afraid. He knew many different countries and was famous in all of them. He always spoke nicely, and he never did any bad things. He was a true friend to everyone, and always helped people when they needed it. His **clothes** were old, dark, and dirty from many years of fighting.

Then there was a Merchant with a dark **beard**, and rich red and yellow clothes. He had an expensive hat on his head and good shoes on his feet. 'I'm doing very well,' he always said. He talked about ships and the sea a lot. He was interested in changing money from different countries and was a very quick thinker. He looked richer than he truly was.

Next to the Merchant there was a Clerk from Oxford. He was a student and he loved reading books. He had **sad** eyes, and he looked **thin** and hungry. His coat was old and thin, too. He wasn't very good at finding work. When his friends gave him money, he thanked God for their help and went at once to the shops for more books. He didn't speak much, but he always said the right thing. He loved learning, and teaching too.

fight (past fought) ν to hit someone again and again; when someone hits people again and again 搏斗;作战

#### clothes

n. people wear these 衣服

#### beard

n. the hair on a man's face 胡子

#### sad

adj. not happy 悲哀的, 忧愁的

#### thin

adj. not fat 瘦的



After the Clerk came a Franklin with a white beard and a red, happy face. He liked eating and drinking and having a good time. He asked people from near and far to visit him at home. Summer or winter, his table was always ready for them with lots of good things to eat on it. He was an important man, he knew right from wrong, and people listened to him.

There was a woman from Bath, too. Everyone called her 'The Wife of Bath'. Her face was open, and nice-looking, but she couldn't hear very well. In her red dress, she was a big woman with a big smile, big teeth, and a big red hat on her head. She laughed a lot and talked easily, and she knew all about love.

So there we were, all thirty of us, at the Inn. We all sat down at the table, and the **landlord**, a tall fat man, brought us the best dinner in London. After we finished eating, the landlord smiled, and said: 'We're going to Canterbury tomorrow, and that's four days from here. One by one, let's all tell a story on the road. When you listen to a story, the time goes quicker. And to the teller of the best story we can give a free dinner here at my inn when we get back. What do you say?'

We all said 'yes' happily to the Landlord. The question now was: *Who goes first?* 

#### landlord n. a man who has an inn 店主



## //// ACTIVITIES

#### READING CHECK

- 1 Choose the correct words to complete the sentences about the story.
  - a It's spring summer autumn,
  - b Geoffery Chaucer is in Canterbury London Oxford.
  - c He's with two friends thirty people his wife.
  - d They're waiting to go to Canterbury London Oxford.
  - e The landlord wants all the people to finish eating tell a story have a free dinner.
- 2 What are the people in the story like? Match two phrases with each picture.



- 1 always helps people
- 2 asks a lot of people to his house
- 3 can't hear very well
- 4 hasn't got much money
- 5 is a good person

- 6 laughs and talks a lot
- 7 loves eating and drinking
- 8 reads a lot
- 9 talks about ships and the sea
- 10 wears expensive clothes

#### **WORD WORK**

Complete the sentences with the correct form of the words on the table.



a	Chaucer and his friends are going to visit the of a					
b	They're staying for a night at an before they leave for Canterbury.					
C	The Clerk doesn't look happy; he's got eyes.					
d	The Merchant and the Franklin both have on their faces.					
e	The Wife of Bath's are all red.					
f	Two knights are in this picture.					
g	He's a man, he doesn't eat much, and he's always hungry.					
h	The at the inn gave them a good dinner.					
CHESS WHAT						

The Knight tells the first story. It begins in Greece a long time ago. Which three things do you think happen in the story?

		Yes	No
a	Two cousins fight because of a woman.		
b	A bad knight takes a beautiful woman away from her home.		
C	Two knights fall in love with one woman.		
d	A woman's five husbands die, one by one.		
е	The Roman gods help three of the people in the story.		
f	A young knight marries an old woman.		

# CHAPTER TWO THE KNIGHT'S TALE 第二章 骑士的故事

n the end, the Knight spoke first. 'I'm not very good at this,' he said. 'But I have a wonderful, old story to tell. It's all about love and war between men and women, two friends, and different countries – but it's very long. So I'm going to tell you only the most important things. I'm not going to take a lot of time answering all those little questions: What clothes did they wear? What did they eat? How did they fight? and Was the weather good or bad? But let's begin. Are you all ready?' We all said.

200

'Yes!' at once – and he began to tell his story happily:

Long ago in Greece, **Duke** Theseus fought to make Athens bigger. For many years he made war with different people. One of these wars was with the Amazons. These women were very good fighters, and not afraid of Theseus or the people of Athens. When Theseus won the war, he married the Amazon Queen, Hippolyta. After that, he wanted to take his wife, and her sister, Emely, to Athens.

On the road, they came to the city of Thebes. There they saw lots of women with their heads in their hands.

'Why are you crying?' asked Theseus.

'Our city fought a war with Creon,' the women told him. 'He took the city. Now he's King of Thebes. And we can't **bury** the dead bodies of our husbands, fathers, and sons, because they were Creon's **enemies**.'

Then Theseus told his wife and her sister, 'You must go to Athens without me. I must fight Creon before I come home.'

#### duke

n. the most important man in a big old town 公爵;亲王; (旧时欧洲部分地区小公国的)君主

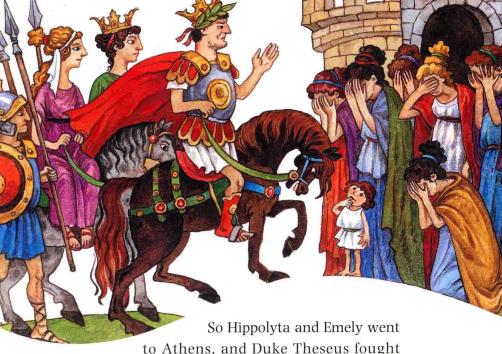
win (past won)
v. to be the best in a fight
取胜

#### bury

v. to put a dead body under the ground 埋葬

#### enemy

n. someone who is not your friend 敌人



Creon. In the end, Theseus killed him. When he was dead, the women of Thebes could bury their men.

In the war, Theseus's men **hurt** two of Creon's knights. Later they brought these two men to the Duke. Their names were Arcite and Palamon. They were **cousins** and good friends. Because they were good fighters the Duke didn't kill them.

'You're coming with me to Athens,' he said. 'There you must live in **prison**. And in the end, you must die in prison too, because you were friends of King Creon – and he was my enemy.'

So Arcite and Palamon went with Theseus to Athens, and for many months they lived in a prison next to the Duke's **castle**.

One day, when Palamon sat by the window, he saw beautiful Emely in the castle garden. He **fell in love** with her at once and cried, 'Oh help! I'm hurt!'

hurt (past hurt) v. to do something bad to someone; feeling bad 伤害

#### cousin

n. the son (or daughter) of your father's (or mother's) brother (or sister) 堂亲;表亲

#### prison

n. a place where people must stay when they do something wrong 监狱

#### castle

n. a big old building; a rich person lives here 城堡

# fall in love with (past fell) to begin to love someone 爱上……



'Are you ill, Palamon?' asked Arcite from his bed.

'No, I'm not. But come and look through the window,' answered Palamon.

Arcite looked through the window. When he saw Emely, he fell in love with her, too.

'Emely!' called Hippolyta from the castle. 'Come here. I need you!'

'I'm coming, sister,' answered Emely, and she went at once.

'What a beautiful girl!' cried Arcite. 'She's Queen Hippolyta's sister, Emely, and I love her!'

'You can't love her,' said Palamon angrily. 'I saw her and fell in love with her first – so I'm her lover, not you.'

'Cousin,' answered Arcite, 'Emely doesn't know us, and we're never going to meet her. So I can love her too, I think, and you can't stop me.'

The two cousins, once the best of friends, now **became** the worst of enemies.

become (past became) v. to begin to be 变成 Some time later, Duke Perotheus visited Athens. He was Theseus's friend and Arcite's friend too.

'Theseus,' said Perotheus when they met, 'Can Arcite go back to Thebes with me?'

'Of course,' answered Theseus, 'But he must never come back to Athens, or I'm going to kill him.'

Arcite left prison and Athens very sadly. He was very angry about Palamon.

'I'm never going to see Emely again, but Palamon is going to see her from his prison window every day.'

to

Back in Thebes, Arcite was ill for a long time with love for Emely. When, after many months, he was well again and could leave his bed, his face was thinner and he had a beard. 'I'm very different to look at,' he thought. 'No one is going to know me in Athens now.' So he changed his name to Philostrate, changed his clothes, and went back to Athens.

There he went at once to Theseus's castle, and soon became the Duke's good friend.

All this time Palamon stayed in prison and watched Emely through his window every day. But one night, soon after Arcite was back in Athens, Palamon **climbed** out of the prison window and ran to a **forest** near the castle.

The next day, Arcite went for a walk in the forest. He saw nobody near him, so he spoke freely. But behind a tree Palamon listened carefully.

'Every day Palamon watches Emely far away through his prison window,' began Arcite, 'And, some months ago, I too nearly died of love for her. But now I can meet her and speak with her in the castle when I want. These

#### climb

v. to go up or down, or through something using your hands and feet

#### forest

n. a place with lots of trees 森林

