

Three Young Men, Death and a Bag of Gold



Geoffrey Chaucer, the Father of English poetry, (1343 - 1400) talks with his readers from the Middle Ages, from the 14th century.

This is the most famous poet in England after William Shakespeare, and they call him "the Father of English poetry."

He created the English literature in his native English, and not in Latin.

The most famous work of Geoffrey Chaucer is the Canterbury Tales. This is a collection of stories told by pilgrims on the way to Canterbury Cathedral, where each spring in April they went to worship to the relics of St. Thomas Becket.

Pilgrims were people of different ages and social classes, and, perhaps, Geoffrey Chaucer was one of them.

These stories are instructive and funny, tragic, witty and never boring, many-sided, like life itself.

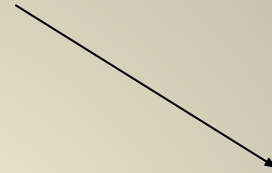
***The Canterbury Tales* (Instead of 120 tales, it's the collection of 24 stories).**

It was written 600 years ago.

The Canterbury Tales was written in verse in medieval English but rewritten in prose.



Pilgrims – *horsemen* (30)



London

APRIL MAY

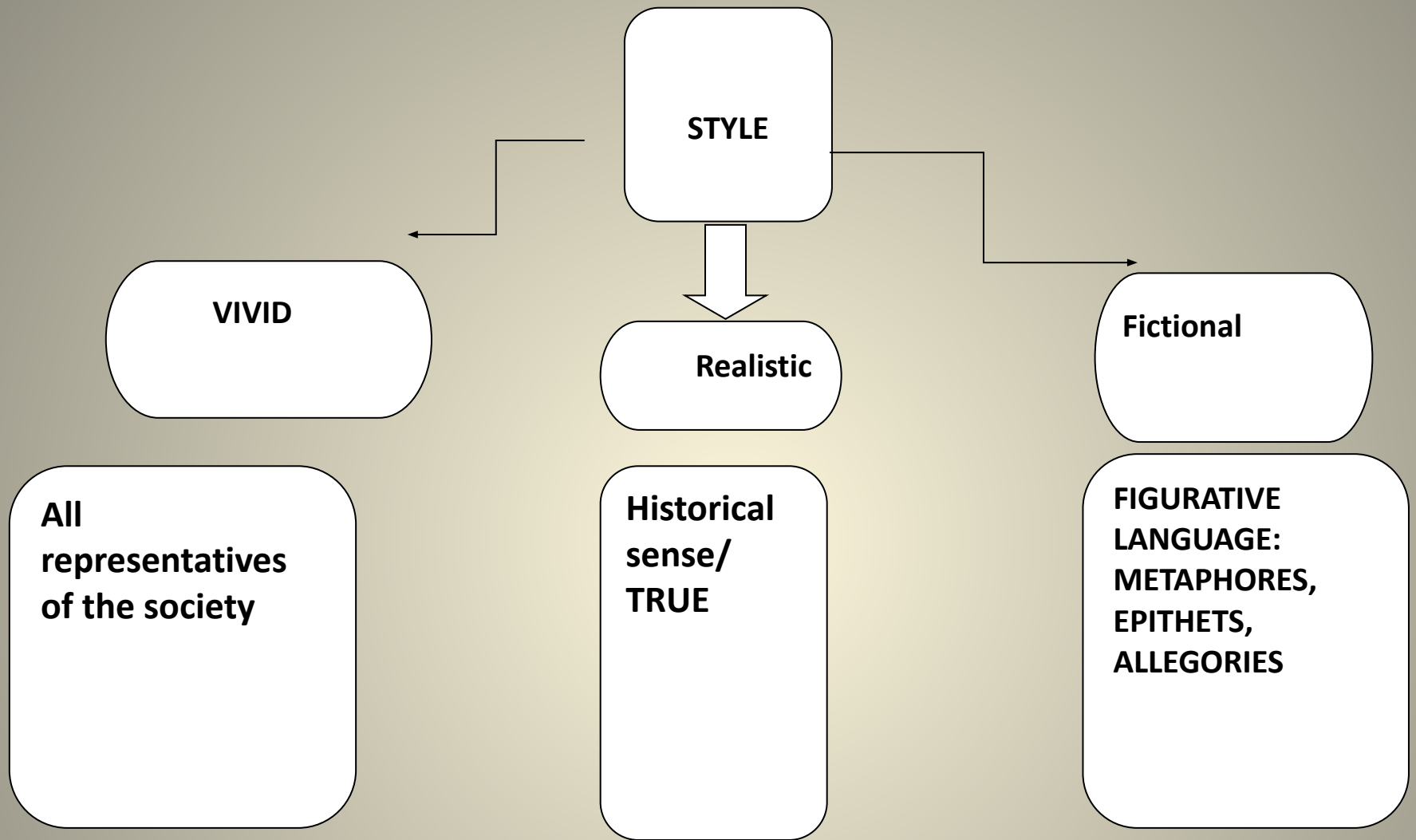
**CANTERBURY to
the grave of Thomas Becket**

Thomas Becket - Thomas Becket, English archbishop, was killed on the steps of the Cathedral of Canterbury, and later canonized by the Catholic Church.

This story mentions Death ("death") - "black plague", which raged in England in 1348 and took away the lives of a huge number of compatriots of G. Chaucer.

At the Tabard Inn, a tavern in Southwark, near London, the narrator joins a company of twenty-nine pilgrims. The narrator gives a description of twenty-seven of these pilgrims, including a Knight, Squire, Yeoman, Prioress, Monk, Friar/ [Roman Catholic religious groups](#) / , Merchant, Clerk, Man of Law, Franklin, Haberdasher / someone whose [job](#) is [selling cloth](#), [pins](#), [thread](#) / , Carpenter, Weaver, Dyer, Tapestry-Weaver, Cook, Shipman, Physician / a [medical](#) doctor/, Wife, Parson / [Religious leaders](#) / , Plowman, Miller, Manciple, Reeve / a [legal officer](#) / , Summoner / [sermon reader](#) / , Pardoner, and Host.

The owner/ HOST/, whose name we find in the Prologue to Cook's Tale, is Harry Bailey, suggests that the group rides together and entertains each other with stories. He decides that each pilgrim will tell two stories on the way to Canterbury and two on the way back to London. The best storyteller will receive food in his Bailey Tavern. The HOST of the Tabard Inn was their judge.



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