



The Canterbury Tales

Vocabulary & Allusions (1)

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NOTE: You can find the vocabulary words below defined in a [flashcard deck at Dictionary.com](#). You need to research the allusions on your own. You should know the basics of who they are, what they are known for, and the source where they appear (e.g., history, Bible, mythology).

The General Prologue

| | | | |
|----------|------------|------------|------------|
| abstruse | arbitrate | boorish | carbuncle |
| chivalry | choleric | ecclesiast | entreaty |
| felicity | frugal | gallant | glib |
| heathen | hostelry | lanyard | lecherous |
| motley | pestilence | scurrility | solicitous |
| taffeta | victuals | wanton | |

Allusions – Research these, and be able to explain in a sentence who they are.

| | | | |
|---------------|-----------|-----------------|-------------|
| Aesculapius | Aristotle | St. Christopher | Hippocrates |
| Thomas Becket | Zephyrus | | |

The Wife of Bath's Tale

| | | | |
|---------|---------|-----------|------------|
| behest | borough | bower | calumniate |
| caul | cosset | crone | extort |
| forlorn | gages | gentility | liege |
| niggard | piteous | sedge | |

Allusions – Research these, and be able to explain in a sentence who they are.

| | | | |
|----------|--------|---------|-------|
| Boethius | Dante | Juvenal | Midas |
| Ovid | Seneca | | |

The Pardoner's Prologue + Tale

| | | | |
|--------------|------------|---------|----------|
| blackguardly | lascivious | perjury | ribaldry |
| superfluity | | | |

Allusions – Research these, and be able to explain in a sentence who they are

| | | | |
|----------------------|-------|--------|-----|
| Attila (the Hun) | Herod | Lemuel | Lot |
| Samson (and Delilah) | | | |