



Module 1  
Geoffrey Chaucer and  
*The Canterbury Tales*

**Geoffrey  
Chaucer**



***The Canterbury Tales***

unfinished poem about a group of **30 pilgrims** going from London to Canterbury: to pass the time, they tell each other **stories**

a portrayal of a new **society of enterprising merchants**

**24 tales** of different medieval genres and deriving from Italian or European sources (Boccaccio's *Decameron*)

written in **Middle English** (the vernacular of the time)

main themes: **love, marriage, religion**, developed with a **variety of styles**

**irony and satire** modulated on the kind of pilgrim who is portrayed

**well-rounded characters**, who represent the real people of 14<sup>th</sup>-century England