

## Perry Tales Assignment Guidelines

We are completing our reading of *The Canterbury Tales*. Now, you will take the concepts that we have learned and discussed and, in a team of no more than four people, create your own tale. You are each representing a “pilgrim” on a journey to the “holy land of the diploma.” Each of you will represent a composite character type that can be found at Perry (e.g. tech freaks, athletes, cheerleaders, band members, preppies, skaters, cowboys, princesses, etc.). The four characters you create must be well described in the prologue, and the tale must relate a situation in which all three are involved together. (There must be at least one character for each person in the team.)

**Very important: Chaucer used sarcasm, criticism and abrasiveness in his satirical tales - you are expected to do the same. However, you must follow these four rules:**

- 1) You may not directly or specifically represent any student in your class in the Perry “groups” you are writing about (characters- yes; names or identifying descriptions - no)
- 2) You may be abrasive, but not “bitterly sarcastic” or intentionally mean
- 3) Your poem **MUST REMAIN** school appropriate
- 4) You **absolutely may not** choose a group based on race, color, religion, or sexual preference - the idea is to have fun with this, not to put anybody down in an inappropriate way for their beliefs or origins.

In your team, you are to develop:

- 1) a brief prologue to introduce your characters (10 lines minimum)
- 2) a tale suitable to those characters= personalities (16 lines minimum)

In the prologue, please describe your characters’ personalities, professions, dress, and physical features, just as Chaucer did. It may be in 1<sup>st</sup> person or 3<sup>rd</sup> person. **The prologue must be minimum 10 lines.**

The tale must be a story that reflects the personality traits, virtues, and/or faults of those characters. Remember, the Wife of Bath had been married five times and considered herself to be an expert on love and marriage; ironically, she relates a tale about what women want from a relationship (but, does she know, really?). The Pardoner was a greedy man who preached only for his own financial gain; ironically and hypocritically, he relates a tale about the dangers of greed. Your tale may teach a moral lesson like “The Pardoner’s Tale” does, or it can be a narrative like “The Wife of Bath’s Tale,” which both entertains and contains a moral. This is a chance to engage in creative instead of expository/analytical writing. Be creative and have fun with it, remembering to keep it VERY school appropriate! **The Tale must be minimum 16 lines. Tale must contain a positive moral!**

*Some things to remember:*

- This is poetry, which has few rules. ***Your poem does not have to rhyme.*** However, if you do rhyme, try to not let the rhyme control the poem
- Each line must have 10 syllables
- Poem must be free from spelling/punctuation errors (don't just spell check - proofread!)
- Poem must either entertain or offer a moral lesson
- Tale must be related to the tellers (about the tellers, their personalities, or professions)
- Introduce three composite characters that can be found at Perry High School (tech freaks, athletes, cheerleaders, band members, preppies, skaters, cowboys, princesses, etc.)
- Since this is an in-class assignment, it may be handwritten, but it must be neat and legible.
- See rubric for exact scoring criteria.

## Sample Prologue and Tale (with a moral lesson)

### The Tale of the "Day"

Perry High School in south Chandler, A-Z  
Where seniors very seldom feel they're free  
There were three students of different types  
'Course, being seniors, they all had their gripes  
The cowboy - always concerned with his looks  
The egghead, always carrying her books  
The skater, always trying to escape  
It is like watching a videotape!  
But, their interaction may face decay  
When round the corner comes Senior Ditch Day!

The cowboy couldn't wait until the 3<sup>rd</sup>  
That was the day to play - that was the word  
He teased the egghead, because she won't skip  
The skater figured on his board he'll flip  
The three argued about ditching for sure  
The egghead refusing to take the lure  
For they would be sick after getting snagged  
Rincon the big man will have them both bagged  
They didn't care - they both hastened to say,  
"It only comes once - Senior Ditch Day!"

While the egghead aced pop quizzes with ease  
The two ditchers did whatever they pleased  
And when they got back to school the next day  
Mr. Serano was loudly heard to say,  
"All those bad seniors now have ISS."  
For punishment they will learn even less!"

Original Perry Tale Grading Rubric

Prologue/Relevance to tellers /5 points

- 5 contains at least 10 lines and is related to teller
- 3 contains 5-9 lines and is somewhat related to tellers
- 0 contains less than 5 lines and is not related to tellers

Syllable Count /5 points

- 5 all lines contained 10 syllables
- 4 most lines contained 10 syllables
- 3 some lines contained 10 syllables
- 1 syllable count is irregular

Content /5 points

- 5 poem is original and entertaining, or offers a moral lesson
- 4 poem is enjoyable/some effort made
- 3 poem is somewhat enjoyable, but you are stretching for a topic
- 1 poem is difficult to understand - doesn't entertain or offer a moral

Appropriateness /5 points

- 5 poem is completely school appropriate
- 0 poem is not appropriate for school

Presentation /5 points

- 5 poem is free from spelling/punctuation errors
- 4 poem exhibits a few instances of spelling/punctuation errors
- 3 poem exhibits multiple instances of spelling/punctuation errors
- 1 errors make comprehension difficult

TOTAL \_\_\_\_\_/25 points