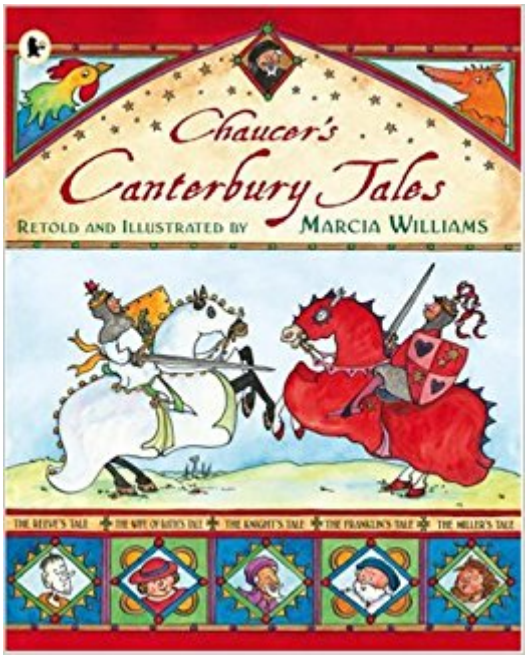
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Chaucer's Canterbury Tales



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Synopsis

A selection of well-loved tales from Chaucer’s literary masterpiece retold in humorous comic-strip style.Travel back to Medieval England and join Chaucer and his band of Canterbury pilgrims in this wonderful introduction to one of Britain’s greatest literary legacies. These nine well-loved tales, from a host of colourful characters - the Knight, the Miller, the Reeve, the Wife of Bath, the Summoner, the Clerk, the Franklin, the Pardoner and the Nun’s Priest - are brought to life with Marcia Williams’ trademark witty, comic-strip art, allowing this classic text to be enjoyed by all ages.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Starred Review. Grade 4Ã¢â ¬â œ8Ã¢â ¬â •Chaucer’s pilgrims come to life in this energetic retelling of nine tales. The most familiar storiesÃ¢â ¬â •"The Nun’s Priest’s Tale," "The Pardoner’s Tale," and "The Wife of Bath’s Tale"Ã¢â ¬â •are here, as are the earthier Miller’s and Summoner’s tales, and the clever Knight’s and Clerk’s tales. Quotes in medieval English are featured in dialogue bubbles, while the stories themselves are told in clear modern prose with a poetic bent. For example, in the "The Wife of Bath’s Tale," the knight "glimpsed a group of delightful damsels dancing in a glade." As happens throughout the text, children are introduced to elevated vocabulary that captures the original intent of Chaucer’s poetry, while elucidating the meaning of the unfamiliar words through the illustrations. Throughout, the juxtaposition of medieval and modern English adds to the comic feel. The watercolor-and-ink cartoon art displayed in a comic-book format is a perfect match for the raucous and sometimes-raw humor, with exaggerated facial expressions and purposely disproportionate body parts. For instance, in "The Miller’s Tale," when Alison offers her

bottom out the window for Absolon to kiss, it is a rather prominent derriere that meets his waiting lips, a fact that is sure to provoke loud guffaws from students. The essence of each tale is intact, allowing the audience to savor Chaucer's genius, with free use of words such as "fart." Williams's collection is an excellent opportunity to expose children to more accounts than the four in Barbara Cohen's The Canterbury Tales (HarperCollins, 1988). A sure way to hook kids into reading classic literature.Ã¢â ¬â •Nancy Menaldi-Scanlan, LaSalle Academy, Providence, RI Copyright Ã Â© Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Williams, the author of several comic-book-style retellings of classic tales, brings Chaucer'sCanterbury Tales to life in a colorful, visually rich format. Each two-page spread, delightfully aquiver with boisterous, good-natured zaniness, uses visual detail to create a frenetic montage of the stories within the story of the traveling pilgrims, who try to best one another in tale telling. The pages are bordered with critters offering humorous peanut-gallery commentary on the stories, while the cartoon personalities within the tales speak in a pidgin Old English that children will delight in deciphering and replicating. Chaucer's ribald tales, which often veer into the juvenile gross-out antics of bawdy adults, are toned down a bit for cheeky young readers (though farts still fly), and the tales-within-a-tale structure of the book nicely matches Williams' multiple-level layouts. Some children may wonder what a Franklin or a Reeve is (curiously, Williams only explains a Summoner), but that won't distract from the fun of the lively, goofy stories and bustling artwork. An entertaining introduction to a storytelling classic. Ian ChipmanCopyright Ã Â© American Library Association. All rights reserved --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

I have 7 copies of this book to use in my British Literature classes. It is a great resource when teaching Canterbury Tales.

Received on time in great condition. One caution: It's a picture book, but don't plan on reading it to your kid without vetting the contents. This IS the Canterbury Tales. And tails abound.

I used this book to introduce our Junior high cast to a Monty Python-ized script of "The Canterbury Tales." The cast knew the Miller's tale...but not the audience!

The Canterbury Tales are a fun group of stories.....but, the cartoon nature and smallness of the

illustrations made it hard to read.It did not really give the flavor of the stories.....I gave the book to the library and did not use.

This is a perfect introduction to G. Chaucer. I use it with my seniors before we study the text book.

I use this with my Sixth Graders for a Storytelling unit. It definitely takes the intimidation factor out of this classic work.

Marcia Williams presents these tales in such a way to entice, make it readable for the young....it just brilliant. The illustrations are just exquisite.

Marcia Williams' series is a wonderful way to introduce erudite topics to a young child. I have an 8 year old boy who is an avid reader, and is currently completely enthralled with the Percy Jackson series. With all of the Greek and Roman mythology, my child has devoured Marcia William's mythology and Illiad/Odyssey books. The illustrations are tasteful, accurate and pleasing to the eye. The summaries strike just the right balance of being readable and accurate. I highly recommend this series to anyone wanting to push the horizons of their little ones (or even themselves). My son is just starting the Shakespeare books and he's into them! I can't wait to discuss the plays with him! I have read this one and enjoyed it much more than my high school experience with Chaucer.

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