

Objective

By the end of this lesson, the student will have a deeper understanding of the themes, characters, and historical context of both "Don Quixote" by Miguel de Cervantes and "The Canterbury Tales" by Geoffrey Chaucer. The student will also explore the concept of chivalry and the role of knights in medieval literature, culminating in a creative project that reflects their learning.

Materials and Prep

- Notebook and pen for note-taking
- Access to "Don Quixote" (any edition) and "The Canterbury Tales" (any edition)
- Art supplies (colored pencils, markers, paper) for creative projects
- Internet access for research (optional)
- Basic knowledge of medieval history and literature

Activities

- **Character Exploration:** Choose a character from either "Don Quixote" or "The Canterbury Tales" and create a character profile. Include details like their background, motivations, and key quotes. Present the profile to a family member or friend.
- **Chivalric Code Debate:** Engage in a debate about the relevance of the chivalric code today. Prepare arguments for and against the idea that modern society still values the same principles of honor, bravery, and courtly love as depicted in medieval literature.
- **Creative Storytelling:** Write a short story or poem inspired by the themes of knightly adventures or quests. Incorporate elements of humor or absurdity, similar to Cervantes' style in "Don Quixote". Share your story with others.
- **Artistic Interpretation:** Create a visual representation of a scene from either book. This could be a drawing, painting, or collage that captures the essence of the moment. Explain your artistic choices in a short presentation.

Talking Points

- "Cervantes' 'Don Quixote' is often considered the first modern novel. How does it challenge traditional storytelling?"
- "Chaucer's 'The Canterbury Tales' provides a snapshot of medieval society. What do you think he wanted to say about class and social norms?"
- "Both Cervantes and Chaucer use humor to convey serious themes. Can you find examples where humor enhances the message?"
- "The concept of chivalry is central to both works. How do the knights in these tales reflect the ideals of their time?"
- "In what ways do you think 'Don Quixote' is a critique of the romanticized notions of knighthood?"
- "Consider the role of women in both texts. How are they portrayed, and what does that say about gender roles in medieval literature?"
- "Both authors wrote during times of great change. How do you think historical context influenced their writing?"
- "Finally, how can we relate the themes of these medieval tales to our lives today? What

lessons can we draw from them?"