

**GEOFFREY CHAUCER.
HIS LIFE AND WORK.**

Geoffrey Chaucer is often called “the father of English literature”.

He was born in London about 1340 into the family of a successful wine importer. His father had connections with the royal court and he was able to place his son as a page in the household of one of King Edward III’s gentlemen.



During the Hundred Years' War Geoffrey Chaucer went with the English army to France and participated in the siege of Reims He was taken prisoner, but his friends helped to ransom him.





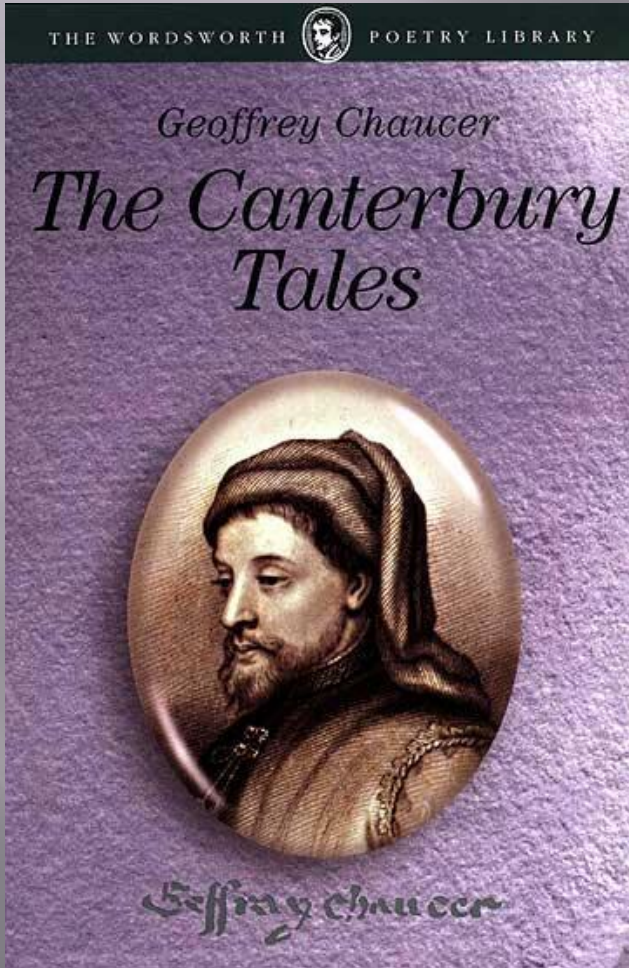
He was inspired by French poets, in his earliest poems he imitated French romances. He translated from French “The Romance of the Rose” written by de Lorris.

The second period of Chaucer's creative activity was marked by Italian literary and cultural influence, mainly by three great Italian poets: Dante, Petrarch and Boccaccio.



When Chaucer came back to England after his journeys abroad, he was appointed Controller of Customs for the Port of London. Later he was a representative of Kent in Parliament.





- However, these duties were tiresome to the poet, he longed for leisure to write. Finally he retired and devoted his time to his literary work. In 1387 he started writing his masterpiece, "The Canterbury Tales". The work was not finished because of the poet's death in 1400.

“The Canterbury Tales” is the first collection of short stories in English literature.

The story-tellers are pilgrims who travel together from London to Canterbury to the shrine of Archbishop Thomas Becket who was murdered by the order of Henry II.



Geoffrey Chaucer was buried in the Poet's Corner of Westminster Abbey



- ▣ Chaucer managed to show all ranks of society, all types of people, and through these people he gives us a true picture of life of the 14th century.

