

Introduction

This authentic assessment package is designed for use in the medieval literature unit of an honors British literature course. The literature centerpiece is *The Canterbury Tales* by Geoffrey Chaucer. As students complete the reading and tasks associated with the text, they will be introduced to the concept of Medieval Fest, once a tradition at Glenbard West.*

Medieval Fest is not a one-day experience. Instead it is a culminating activity of a five to six week unit. During the unit, each class is broken into kingdoms, and members of the kingdoms choose their own personas. Every student keeps a journal in role, weaving in all the varied activities and information that come up in class. Also, every student is responsible for a formal research report on a specific topic of the medieval world. The role-playing and information from research will help students prepare an interactive and educational Medieval Fest for school and outside community members.

Eight assessments specifically measure comprehension and analysis of the text and its literary features, but even though the remaining assessments correlate to the research and preparation for Medieval Fest, students' knowledge of medieval personas as uncovered in excerpts from Chaucer's work will serve as the context for the application and synthesis required for successful participation in the fest.

* Judith Weinstock, a mentor in this process, provided much of the initial framework for the fest as it has been facilitated in the past.