

# QUICK CARD: *THE CANTERBURY TALES,* *“THE NUN’S PRIEST’S TALE”*



<b>Reference</b>	<i>The Canterbury Tales, “The Nun’s Priest’s Tale”.</i> Geoffrey Chaucer. (2003) ISBN: 978-0140424386
<b>Plot</b>	A Medieval priest entertains a group of pilgrims on the road to Canterbury, telling a beast fable with a moral of self-control.
<b>Setting</b>	<p>“The Nun’s Priest’s Tale” exists within a larger body of stories, <i>The Canterbury Tales</i>, which are held together by a General Prologue. This Prologue explains that a group of travelers on pilgrimage to Canterbury decide to amuse one another by telling stories along the way, awarding the best narrator a free dinner when they return. Each subsequent tale within the corpus represents one of these stories and is introduced with a preface by the story’s narrator, which serves to reveal his character to his traveling companions and to the reader. Thus, “The Nun’s Priest’s Tale” is the story the priest tells on the journey and his “Prologue” a story frame in which he reveals his comic spirit, satirizing human nature and human institutions.</p> <p>The Nun’s Priest’s Tale Setting: A farmyard</p>
<b>Characters</b>	<p>The characters in the story frame:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Priest</li> <li>• The host and the other pilgrims who hear the tale</li> </ul> <p>The characters within the tale itself:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A poor dairymaid and her two daughters</li> <li>• Chanticleer, the rooster</li> <li>• Pertelote, his favorite hen</li> <li>• The other hens in the coop</li> <li>• The fox</li> <li>• Other farm animals</li> </ul>
<b>Conflict</b>	<p>Man vs. Self Man vs. Man Man vs. God</p>

<p style="text-align: center;">Theme</p>	<p>“God give him mischance who indiscreet of self-control jangles when he should hold his peace.”  Self-control  Satire on rhetoric, which ennobles petty sentiment, empty versification and pretentious babbling.  Considered within the larger body of the Tales, it becomes a satire on pretense.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Literary Devices</p>	<p>Allusions:  To Roman statesmen  Theology  Biblical history  Medieval history  Roman authors  Philosophers</p>