

Geoffrey Chaucer Biography



Geoffrey Chaucer (1340s-1400)

Geoffrey Chaucer is one of the most famous English poet and author from middle age. 14th century is also known as Chaucer's Age. Chaucer is known as the "father of English literature" and the "father of English poetry". He is called the "father of English literature" because he was the first to write what become generally well-known and recognized poems and stories in the language of the common people of his time. He influenced William Shakespeare mainly by popularising the English language and iambic pentameter. His one of the most popular and best work is "The Canterbury Tales".

It is believed that he was born during 1340. Some People guess that he was born in 1342, 1343 etc. He was born in London, England. His Father is John Chaucer and mother's name was Agnes Copton. His family was of the bourgeois class, descended from an affluent family who made their money in the London Wine trade.

In 1357 he became a public servant to Countess Elizabeth of Ulster. After Countess Elizabeth married Lionel of Antwerp, Duke of Clarence who was the Son of Edward III, he worked in the Royal court. In 1359 he was called upon to join Edward III, his Son and the Army als England in the Hundred Years' war. He was captured by the French during The Hundred years' war in 1360 and Edward the king of England paid £16 For his safe return. After this he travelled a lot to many places like France, Spain, Italy and more. Then around 1366, he married Philipa (de) Roet. In 1367 he became a member in Edward III's Royal court. He was also a mentere of court. Son of King Edward III John Gaunt was a good friend of him. When John Gaunt's wife died Geoffrey Chaucer wrote "The Book of the Duchess" to commemorate. It is the first major long poem published by Geoffrey Chaucer and was written, sometime between 1368 and 1372. In 1378 Cohen Richard II was the king, he sent Geoffrey Chaucer to Milan as a secret agent. There he met John Hawkwood. In "The Canterbury tales" he described John Hawkwood in the first tale "The Knight's Tale" as the knight. Then he took leave and went on a trip to kent. There he started working as a commissioner. Maybe during that time he started writing "The Canterbury Tales". He also introduced a Rhyming Stanza technique in English poetry. It is known as "Rhyme Royal" which is written in iambic pentameter. He was the first English poet who used iambic