

The Knight's Tale

Key Terms

- *Occupatio*: drawing attention to something whilst denying that you are doing so.
- *Symmetrical diptychal*: working from beginning to end using two paired themes that fold in and mirror one another.

Context

- Composed before 1386
- Boccaccio - Il Teseida delle Nozze d'Emilia
- Statius: The Thebaid
- Arcite and Palamon cursed because of their lineage leading back to Oedipus
- Chaucer had fought in many wars

Genre

- Chivalric romance of a highly philosophical complexion
- Relationship between epic and history, it is labelled as 'a noble storie' which relates more directly to history.
- The poem however does relate more to love than war etc.
- As only Palamon finds happiness within marriage it could be called a Romance Tragedy
- Boethius invented this concept of the 'Wheel of Fortune' which creates a backbone to this story.

Philosophy

- The roles of Fortune and Providence are very relevant to the Knight's and how their story plays out.
- Secondary to that are fate and freewill and all of this is presented in an ostensibly pagan universe.
- Boethian theodicy