



# The Canterbury Tales Explore Themes

Complete the chart to help you explore the development of three themes that run through *The Canterbury Tales*:

In the **Theme** column, identify a theme.

In the **Text Evidence** column, cite at least three excerpts from the prologues or tales that relate to that theme.

In the **"Take" on the Theme** column, state the "take," or what the excerpts say about the theme.

Theme	Text Evidence	"Take" on the Theme
	1.  2.  3.	<i>A diverse group of pilgrims will tell tales on their pilgrimage to Canterbury.</i>
	1.  2.  3.	

	1.	
	2.	
	3.	

RL.11-12.2 Determine two or more themes or central ideas of a text and analyze their development over the course of the text, including how they interact and build on one another to produce a complex account; provide an objective summary of the text.

## Answer Key

### Sample Student Response

Theme	Text Evidence	"Take" on the Theme
Importance of company	<p>1. At night was come into that hostelry / Well nine and twenty in a company / Of sundry folk, by sheer chance fallen / Into fellowship, and pilgrims were they all, / Who toward Canterbury would ride. (General Prologue, p. 3)</p> <p>2. For by my troth, I shall not lie, / I've not seen this year so merry a company / At one time in this inn as is now. (General Prologue, p. 41)</p> <p>3. The Knight ends his tale with, "And God save all this fair company! Amen." (The Knight's Tale, p. 165)</p>	The company and fellowship of others is important and can bring joy and camaraderie.

Other possible themes could include: love and desire, competition, church corruption.