




Comparison table

The Decameron – The Canterbury Tales – The Malignani Talks

	Boccaccio (1313-1375) 	Chaucer (1342/3-1400) 	Millennia 
<u>Work of art (title and literary genre)</u>	The “Decameron” consists in a compilation of 100 short stories or novels	Also “ <i>The Canterbury tales</i> ” consists in a compilation of short tales which are connected by the main plot and context of the work.	The Malignani Talks
<u>Time of drafting</u>	It was drafted during the first half of the 14th century, more specifically between years 1348 and 1351 .	By contrast, <i>The Canterbury tales</i> were composed in the second half of the 14th century. Indeed the author began to write them down from 1386 until the year of his death, in 1400 .	a.s. 2020/2021

<u>Aim of the trip</u>	The characters flee from Florence to avoid the plague.	They leave from London so as to visit the tomb of the martyr Thomas Becket , in Canterbury.	
<u>Type of disease at the times</u>	The Black Plague was the name of that time epidemic.	The black plague is nominated several times during the narration, however it is no longer the cause of a global epidemic.	Currently the Corona Virus plague has spreaded all over the world's country. More specifically, its identify name is COVID-19.
<u>Narrator (internal /external)</u>	The main narrator of Decameron is Boccaccio, so it is external . However while the story keeps going on, the narrator's point of view steadily changes among the characters who are directly involved into the narration of the single novels.	The Narrator is internal the story, in fact, he meets the pilgrims for the first time and joins them at the beginning of the story.	
<u>Parts of the book</u>	The <i>Decameron</i> is structured with <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a Proemio • Long list of novels; duration of 10 days of storytelling • The conclusion 	The work is divided in three defined parts: the first one is a <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • General Prologue which exposes an introduction to the stories before, and then all characters' brief description; • it follows the Prologues of each tales • and lastly the tales proper. 	
<u>N° of novels</u>	There are a hundred of these novels (+ 1, the ducks' one, a tale within the tale).	There are 24 tales in total instead of the original number, 120.	

<u>When are the stories told?</u>	Ten stories are told each day by each character , so in the end it results 100 novels , in order to spend the freetime.	The 29 pilgrims tell their stories while they are on their way to Canterbury and back, to spend their time. The characters should have told 4 stories each, 2 before arriving to the place and then 2 during their way back.	
<u>Prize</u>	Each of the ten days, the one who has told the best story is identified as the "King" or "Queen", whose purpose is to charge his/her successor of the next day and to choose the theme of everyone's storytelling.	Each storyteller is judged by the inn-owner who has suggested to reward with a free meal in his tavern whoever tells the best story throughout the trip.	
<u>N° and type of characters</u>	The work's characters are ten nobles , three young men and seven young women . In spite of this, the ones who populate the stories are from aristocracy .	The amount of characters is made by the group of 29 pilgrims, the narrator and the inn-owner. All the storyteller come from all walks of life, a mix of social classes and professions, whereas their personalities are revealed during the narration of their own tales.	The students of year 3 LSM sez. B
<u>Setting</u>	They establish themselves in a villa outside the citywalls of Florence	At first, the group meet at the Tabard Inn , in Southwark (close to the London Bridge). After that the setting changes repeatedly while they're heading to Canterbury.	A. Malignani High School
<u>Themes</u>	A wide variety of topics is covered with the stories, such as unhappyness, love, rewards for overcoming difficulties, jokes and tricks. As a result Boccaccio moves from the dominance of	Themes like religion, marriage, love, chivalry, magic are the current in proper tales. They may be human stories or even beast fables .	The students' passions, experiences, dreams, hopes...

	vice over virtue to that virtue over vice.		
<u>Language</u>	The work is completely written in vernacular Italian prose.	<i>The Canterbury Tales</i> is written in verse using an ironic and humorous tone. It has been the first text ever to be written in the Middle English vernacular. In this way G. Chaucher develops his own type of poetry.	Modern English

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