

QUICK CARD:
THE CANTERBURY TALES,
“THE PARDONER’S TALE”



Reference	<i>The Canterbury Tales</i> , “The Pardoner’s Tale”. Geoffrey Chaucer. (2003) ISBN: 978-0140424386
Plot	A Medieval Pardoner entertains a group of pilgrims on the road to Canterbury, telling a story on the theme of “radix malorum et cupiditas,” or “the love of money is the root of all kinds of evil.”
Setting	<p>Context: “The Pardoner’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, promising to award 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 Pardoner’s Tale” is the story the Pardoner tells on the journey and his “Prologue” a story frame in which the pardoner reveals his “game”: cheating honest souls out of their money through religious manipulation. “The Pardoner’s Prologue” provides context for his tale, making it inherently ironic.</p> <p>The Pardoner’s Tale Setting: During the plague Three Fools seek to kill Death, which has taken many of their friends.</p>
Characters	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3 young fools or “roisterers” • Old Man, Death’s “spy”
Conflict	<p>Man vs. Nature Man vs. Man</p>

Theme	The love of money is the root of all kinds of evil.
Literary Devices	Symbolism – the treasure behind the tree symbolizes “Death” to the fools who love it. Imagery created by Personification of Death and Mother Earth Similes and metaphors Allusions