



UNIVERSITY OF MASSACHUSETTS
HISTORY OF THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE

ASSIGNMENT 5
MIDDLE ENGLISH

This assignment introduces you to the Middle English Dictionary (MED).

<https://quod.lib.umich.edu/m/middle-english-dictionary/dictionary>

You can search the MED by **headword** (the original Middle English in its nominative singular or infinitive form); by **definition**; by **etymology**; and by **Modern English** equivalent.

Look up the words in the first four lines of Chaucer's *Canterbury Tales* by searching **Headword (with alternate spellings)**. Record the pronunciation. Then take note of a word's **etymology**. Using the etymology, try to translate the words into Old English where possible. Where a word derives from another language, simply reproduce it. The first two are done for you. *2 lines correctly done earns a C, 3 lines a B, and 4 lines an A.*

Whan that Aprill with his shoures soote
The droghte of March hath perced to the roote,
And bathed every veyne in swich licour
Of which vertu engendred is the flour;

ME Word	Pronunciation	Etymon	OE Translation
and	/and/	OE. and	and
Aprill	/ap' ril/	L. aprilis	[Aprill]
bathed			
droghte			
engendred			
every			
flour			
hath			
his			
in			
is			
licour			
March			

<u>ME Word</u>	<u>Pronunciation</u>	<u>Etymon</u>	<u>OE Translation</u>
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of

perced

roote

shoures

soote

swich

that

the

to

vertu

veyne

whan

which

with

Translated lines: