

English 416

Assignment

Due in class.

Translation #3



GEOFFREY CHAUCER

Chaucer uses a great number of proverbs in the *Tales*. Their force often depends on who speaks them.

Examine a proverb in one of the tales, describe its received meaning, then describe how Chaucer engages that meaning in the give-and-take of his narrative.

For example, what does it imply that the narrator uses the proverb? Or a particular character? What is the relation of the proverb's register to the social status of the speaker? And so forth.

500 words or two pages.