

AP English Notes
October 8, 2004

Descriptive Paper Due October 20, 2004

Look carefully at Chaucer's techniques in presenting vivid descriptions of the manner of dress and personality of his characters. Although Chaucer appears never to criticize his subjects but simply relates the character's dress, physical form, and mannerisms, the readers enjoy the facade of innocent revelation that the author invokes. Describe a well-known historical, political, or entertainment personality using the techniques that Chaucer utilizes.

In your paper, please use the techniques that make Chaucer's writing so alive.

Sights, sounds, smells

*Details

*Vivid Images

You may use these literary techniques to add color and clarity to your descriptions.

*Personification

- A smile danced across the Nun's face.
- Heaven glanced earthward and shivered.

*Metaphor

- She is the night.
- His breath is a dead mule.

*Simile--A comparison using like or as

- She is like the night.
- His breath is like a dead mule.

Friar Notes

Friar--a Latin word *Frater* meaning brother

Monastic Life--Life in a Monastery

- Devote themselves to service of humanity in the secular world

Four Orders of Friars

- » Franciscan
- » Dominican
- » Carmelities
- » Augustinian

» Clothing--called a habit

Two tunics with hoods, belt and trousers, and a chaperon, capelike piece of clothing, reaching to the belt.

Hood showed a promise of obedience to God

On a journey a head dress called a coif was worn, this showed he was traveling.

Cloak was called a mantle

Clothing was inexpensive and mended with sackcloth

Friar's Duties and Beliefs

Fast on certain occasions

Care for the sick

Help Poor

Perform these services not to receive money

Devoted to Work and Avoid Idleness

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Sought humbleness

Social outcast and humiliation if they attempted to return to a worldly life style

Chaucer's Friar

Unchaste, undisciplined, reckless, unrestrained (wanton)

Duties: Beg for donations, preach, bury the dead, marry individuals

Spoke well

He states he could hear confessions.(This is very doubtful.)

Pins and pocket knives to little girls

Liked silver

Had a thick, white, neck and used it in tavern brawls

Sang and played a stringed instrument, hurdy gurdy

Enjoyed gossip

Knew the bars, barmaids, and tavern keepers better than lepers

Heard confessions (shrift) and gave small penance (task to gain forgiveness) for a gift

Hubert was his name