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HOW TO STUDY CHAUCER

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# HOW TO STUDY CHAUCER

Rob Pope

**M**  
MACMILLAN  
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First published 1988

Published by  
MACMILLAN EDUCATION LTD  
Houndmills, Basingstoke, Hampshire RG21 2XS  
and London  
Companies and representatives  
throughout the world

Typeset by Wessex Typesetters  
(Division of The Eastern Press Ltd)  
Frome, Somerset

British Library Cataloguing in Publication Data

Pope, Rob

How to study Chaucer.—(How to study literature).

I. Chaucer, Geoffrey, 1340?–1400—Study and teaching

I. Title II. Coyle, Martin III. Series  
821'.1 PR1905

ISBN 978-0-333-39923-1 ISBN 978-1-349-08294-0 (eBook)  
DOI 10.1007/978-1-349-08294-0

*For my parents,  
Margaret and Ernest Pope*



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# Contents

<i>General editors' preface</i>	viii
<i>Acknowledgements and note on references</i>	ix
<b>1 Getting started</b>	<b>1</b>
Who (or what) is 'Chaucer'?	1
How to read five lines of Chaucer	2
Four Chaucers: the man, the works, the narrator and the exam	5
<b>2 Studying <i>The General Prologue to the     Canterbury Tales</i></b>	<b>24</b>
<b>3 How to study <i>The Canterbury Tales:</i>     <i>The Knight's Tale</i></b>	<b>49</b>
<b>4 Study frameworks for <i>The Canterbury Tales</i></b>	<b>79</b>
<i>The Miller's Tale</i>	79
<i>The Pardoner's Prologue and Tale</i>	89
<i>The Nun's Priest's Tale</i>	100
<i>The Merchant's Tale</i>	104
<i>The Wife of Bath's Prologue and Tale</i>	110
<i>The Clerk's Tale</i>	117
<i>The Franklin's Prologue and Tale</i>	122
<b>5 <i>The Parliament of Fowls</i> and the 'Dream Poems'</b>	<b>130</b>
<b>6 <i>Troilus and Criseyde</i></b>	<b>138</b>
<b>7 Writing an essay on Chaucer</b>	<b>151</b>
<i>Further reading</i>	160
<i>The 'top 100' most commonly misunderstood     words in Chaucer</i>	163

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## General editors' preface

EVERYBODY who studies literature, either for an examination or simply for pleasure, experiences the same problem: how to understand and respond to the text. As every student of literature knows, it is perfectly possible to read a book over and over again and yet still feel baffled and at a loss as to what to say about it. One answer to this problem, of course, is to accept someone else's view of the text, but how much more rewarding it would be if you could work out your own critical response to any book you choose or are required to study.

The aim of this series is to help you develop your critical skills by offering practical advice about how to read, understand and analyse literature. Each volume provides you with a clear method of study so that you can see how to set about tackling texts on your own. While the authors of each volume approach the problem in a different way, every book in the series attempts to provide you with some broad ideas about the kind of texts you are likely to be studying and some broad ideas about how to think about literature; each volume then shows you how to apply these ideas in a way which should help you construct your own analysis and interpretation. Unlike most critical books, therefore, the books in this series do not simply convey someone else's thinking about a text, but encourage you and show you how to think about a text for yourself.

Each book is written with an awareness that you are likely to be preparing for an examination, and therefore practical advice is given not only on how to understand and analyse literature, but also on how to organise a written response. Our hope is that although these books are intended to serve a practical purpose, they may also enrich your enjoyment of literature by making you a more confident reader, alert to the interest and pleasure to be derived from literary texts.

John Peck  
Martin Coyle

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## Acknowledgements and note on references

WARM thanks to Alcuin Blamires at Lampeter and my colleagues and students at Oxford Polytechnic for sharing, challenging or simply putting up with my ideas on Chaucer; also to Pat Meade, Josie Murphy and Linda Kimber for turning my untidy drafts into an immaculate typescript.

All quotations from *The Canterbury Tales* are from the Everyman edition: *Geoffrey Chaucer: Canterbury Tales*, ed. A. C. Cawley (London: Dent, 1976). Line references relate to this edition. For quotations from and references to Chaucer's other works, the edition used is *The Complete Works of Geoffrey Chaucer*, ed. F. N. Robinson, 2nd edn (London: Oxford University Press, 1957).

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