# Comp Tales An Introduction To College Composition Through Its Stories Paperback

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this introduction to the canterbury tales for students is accessible to first time readers of chaucer and is also a significant critical study in its own right it gives full separate readings of each tale together with clear expositions of the historical and literary backgrounds using modern theoretical perspectives the book focuses particularly on gender political and narratological approaches the humour in the tales and chaucer s gifts for story telling and dialogue are rooted in an extraordinary perceptiveness about timeless subjects such as human vanity class consciousness snobbery rivalry robust honesty and self sacrificing love this book provides both a clear guide to all aspects of the canterbury tales and insight into why it continues to be of importance to modern readers

this book is intended as an introduction to the study of american literature although the chapters on the separate authors are wholly distinct they have been so planned that each of them prepares the way for its successor and that all of them together outline the changing circumstances under which american literature has developed an attempt has been made to

show how each of the chief american authors influenced his time and how he in turn was influenced by it and also to indicate how each of them was related to the others both personally and artistically bearing in mind the fact that the student needs to have his attention centered on vital points all dates and all proper names and all the titles of books not absolutely essential have been rigorously omitted interest has thus been concentrated on the literary career of each of the greater writers and on their practice of the literary art in the hope and expectation that the student will be encouraged and stimulated to read their works for his own pleasure after the consideration of these more important authors one by one the writers of less consequence have been discussed briefly in a single chapter and in like manner a single chapter only has been devoted to a summary consideration of the condition of our literature at the end of the nineteenth century to arouse the student s interest in the authors as actual men the illustrations chosen have been confined to portraits and views and to facsimiles of manuscripts to enable him to see for himself the successive stages of the growth of american literature and to let him discover how the authors sometimes came one after another and sometimes worked side by side there has been appended also a chronological table of the chief dates in our literary history as mere text book instruction can never be an adequate substitute for the student s own acquaintance with the actual works of the authors discussed there have been annexed to every chapter bibliographical notes calling attention to the editions most suitable for the student s reading and also to the best biographies and to a few of the most suggestive criticisms from the prefatory note

from wicked queens beautiful princesses elves monsters and goblins to giants glass slippers poisoned apples magic keys and mirrors the characters and images of fairy tales have cast a spell over readers and audiences both adults and children for centuries these fantastic stories have travelled across cultural borders and been passed on from generation to generation ever changing renewed with each re telling few forms of literature have greater power to enchant us and rekindle our imagination than a fairy tale but what is a fairy tale where do they come from and what do they mean what do they try and communicate to us about morality sexuality and society the range of fairy tales stretches across great distances and time their history is entangled with folklore and myth and their inspiration draws on ideas about nature and the supernatural imagination and fantasy psychoanalysis and

feminism in this very short introduction marina warner digs into a rich hoard of fairy tales in all their brilliant and fantastical variations in order to define a genre and evaluate a literary form that keeps shifting through time and history drawing on a glittering array of examples from classics such as red riding hood cinderella and the sleeping beauty the grimm brothers hansel and gretel and hans andersen s the little mermaid to modern day realizations including walt disney s snow white warner forms a persuasive case for fairy tale as a crucial repository of human understanding and culture about the series the very short introductions series from oxford university press contains hundreds of titles in almost every subject area these pocket sized books are the perfect way to get ahead in a new subject quickly our expert authors combine facts analysis perspective new ideas and enthusiasm to make interesting and challenging topics highly readable

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