

Name: _____

Honors English 12

Date: _____

Period

THE CANTERBURY TALES

Heroic Couplet Assignment (30pts)

Heroic Couplet

- When the meter of a couplet, which is two consecutive rhyming lines of poetry, is iambic pentameter, the lines constitute a heroic couplet. Geoffrey Chaucer introduces the heroic couplet into English literature, and in the seventeenth century heroic couplets became popular for poetic dramas.

All human things are subject to decay,

And when fate summons, monarchs must obey.

Iambic pentameter

- The most common meter in English verse. It consists of a line ten syllables long that is accented on every second beat.
- Syllables alternate between stressed and unstressed beats, creating this pattern: "de/DUM de/DUM de/DUM de/DUM de/DUM"

To	swell	the	gourd,	and	plump	the	ha-	-zel	shells
da	Dum	da	Dum	da	Dum	da	Dum	da	Dum

Assignment:

Select a contemporary entertainer, politician, statesman, or athlete, etc., or you can use yourself, and write a poetic description of that person in heroic couplets (you can satirize if you are witty enough). Use the character sketches in "The Prologue" as a model. (Must be at least 20 lines) and contain 10 syllables in each line (if you would like to make your heroic couplets in iambic pentameter, go ahead!)

THE CANTERBURY TALES

Heroic Couplet Assignment Rubric

Turned in on time _____/5
contains 20 lines _____/5
Each line has 10 syllables _____/5

Heroic couplet is typed _____/5
contains 10 couplets _____/5
Poem is about a person _____/5