

Reading Strategy

PARAPHRASE

One way to understand old texts like *The Canterbury Tales* is to **paraphrase**, or restate complex sentences in your own words. When you paraphrase text, you make it simpler and easier to comprehend.

**Directions:** In the chart, record difficult passages from “The Prologue” in the first column and your paraphrase in the second column. An example has been done for you.

Chaucer’s Words	Paraphrase
“When in April the sweet showers fall/And pierce the drought of March to the root” (lines 1–2)	When the April rains come and end the dryness of March

from THE CANTERBURY TALES:  
THE PROLOGUE