

# *Selected Canterbury Tales*

## Terms and Definitions

*Allegory* - a story that represents abstract ideas or moral qualities. As such, an allegory has both a literal level and a symbolic level of meaning. Example: *Gulliver's Travels*.

*Allusion* - a reference to a person, place, poem, book, or movie outside of the story that the author expects the reader will recognize.

*Fable* - a story that presents a moral or practical lesson. Generally, there are talking animals in fables. Example: *Aesop's Fables*.

*Hyperbole* - exaggeration for emphasis; overstatement. Example: I've told you a million times to...

*Irony* - a subtle, sometimes humorous perception of inconsistency in which the significance of a statement or event is changed by its content. For example: the firehouse burned down.

*Litotes* – a conscious understatement that achieves the opposite effect of the statement itself. Example: I like money a little.

*Satire* – using humor to ridicule. Example: *Animal Farm*.