

## Study Guide for "The Miller's Tale"

Locate Internet sources for the following terms:

FABLIAU

PARODY

CARNIVALESQUE

SCATOLOGY

1. What is the Host's reaction to "The Knight's Tale"? See p. 147 (Heatt)
2. Why does the Miller insist on telling the next tale?
3. How does "The Miller's Tale" "quit" "The Knight's Tale"?
4. Look for parallels in plot, character, and theme between the two tales.
5. What is its stated theme? See lines 55-58 in Heatt.
6. Consider the full ironic implications of "Goddes pryvetee" in line 56. How does Nicholas' "plot" echo the Boethian theme in "The Knight's Tale"?
7. What is a fabliau? Isolate the three principal motifs: the flood, the misdirected kiss, and the branding.  
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8. Look closely at the descriptions and actions of the four characters: John, Alisoun, Nicholas, and Absolon. Are any of these characters admirable? with whom does the Miller identify?  
Chaucer?
9. What is the structure of the tale? How do the various plot elements come together in line 629?
10. Is the tale appropriate to its teller?
11. Does the tale fulfill Herry the Host's criteria for sentence and solas?