***The merchant and the knight***

The merchant and the knight are two characters of the Geoffre Chauser’s work “The Canterbury tales”.

They both are presented in the General prologue.

If the reader take into consideration the characterizations of the two characters will notice that they are very different.

Now considering the knight. The poet presents the character with the telling technique, indeed there’s a narrator who tells about the Knight.

The poet uses different strategies in order to create a positive characterization of the knight.

First, he refers to his reputation, secondly, he refers to his values, the values of a medieval knight and last but not least he gives a positive judgement.

The positive reputation of the character is expressed by the lexical choice of the noun 'gentleman'. Later, he makes a list of his positive values that are typical of chivalry that is 'honour, truth, freedom and all courtesy. At the end of the first section, he provides his positive judgement by saying he was 'full worthy'.

He also refers to his skills in battles and, another strategy he resorts to is the way he speaks, his communication style.

Last but not least his humility is underlined by his dressing style.

At the end the reader can say that the characterization provides a feeling of perfection that doesn't seem real.

Now considering the merchant. The poet presents the character with the showing technique. The most important strategy uses is irony. The irony is reflected the others strategies: in his dressing style, riding style, the way he speaks, his thought and his debt.

Firstly the merchant seems to be a rich and intelligent man. He is dressed in the latest style and riding style is beyond. When he speak convey the idea that he feels very important.

He is very full of himself and he wants that people to think he is very intelligent and worth of respect. He behaves like this to hide his debts: in fact he is poor and not intelligent.

So he wants to give people an imagine of himself that is not real.

If the reader takes the into consideration two characterizations he or she may notice that both the characters firstly are describes as people with a good reputation.

But if the reader goes deeper into the characterizations he or she understands that the two characters hasn’t got anything in common.

The knight is humble and pious while the merchant is extravagant and a double agent.

And both in the psychical and psychologically are the opposite.

In conclusion the reader can say that the knight and the merchant are two opposite characters. So Geoffre Chauser with this two characters wants to highlight two different social classes of the Middle Ages.