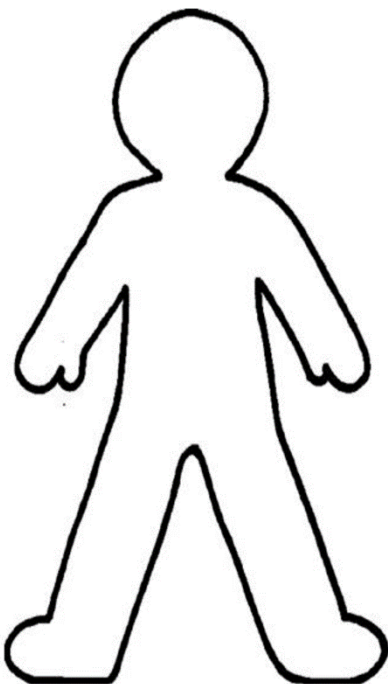# Design Your Own:
Dante & Chaucer Edition

Now that you've experienced the world of Dante's *Inferno* & gone on a pilgrimage with Chaucer's *Canterbury Tales*, your next assignment is to create your own version of their work and world. You can decide whether you're like to design your own version of hell using Dante's model or describe a modern character to go on Chaucer's pilgrimage. Use the guidelines below to complete your assignment.

CREATE YOUR OWN PILGRIM

You will create and describe your own version of a character who might participate in a modern pilgrimage. Think about a modern job or personality that is easily recognized and what kind of "pilgrimage" they might participate in. Some examples can be well-known actors, politicians, or even fictional characters like Cookie Monster, Indiana Jones, or Harry Potter. What kind of journey might they be found on and how would you describe them to someone else? Use the following guidelines:

Profession/Character	Describe exactly what is their profession and how good they are ate it? Think about their social status (is it low/high? how can you tell? what can be made fun of?)
Physical Description	Think about their physical appearance. How might your quickly describe them to someone else that would make them recognizable?
Personality	Think about the things that make this individual unique. How you would recognize them without their appearance. Consider their health, personality, likes/dislikes, perceptions, strengths, goals, dreams, hobbies, etc.
Introduction	Write a brief introduction to your pilgrimage, giving the reader some background before entering. Think about how you would have gotten involved with this journey.
Writing	I expect you to write a 14-20 line **poem**. Try to follow Chaucer's model of rhyming couplets (aa, bb, cc) and to arrange it in stanzas of: (1)introduction, (2)WHO is it, (3)WHAT is their profession, and (4)WHY are they on the journey?
Diagram	You may (but don't have to) include a depiction of your pilgrim. Drawing it out may really help us visualize who you mean.

DESIGN YOUR OWN INFERNO

You will construct your own vision of hell. Think about what you classify as "sins" worthy of hell and what the appropriate punishments might be. Be aware of what hell might look like, smell like, sound like, and feel like. Try and think outside of pop culture beliefs on the subject and create your own unique vision. Consider a theme like a disco, truck stop, western dance club, city bus, etc. What creatures, monsters, gatekeepers, and obstacles might be found in your own hell? It must have....

Physical Description   Where is this hell? What does it actually look like? How is it ordered/arranged? Try to arrange your hell into 4-5 levels (I wouldn't go much bigger than that or your poem will have to be much longer)

Classification of Sins   Equal isn't necessarily fair, so think about what sin or fault is the most hell-worthy. Does it have levels? How many, and WHO fits into each level?

Punishments   How is each group of sinners punished? Remember contrapasso, the punishment must fit the crime.

Famous Residents   Dante wasn't afraid to put people he knew in hell, so you shouldn't be afraid either. However, you are *not* allowed to name anyone who is currently or ever has been a student/teacher/staff member at NUAMES unless you have their permission (I don't want to end up in your hell.)

Introduction   Write a brief introduction to your hell, giving the reader some background before entering. Remember, Dante didn't just stumble into hell; he was guided by Virgil. Think about how you get there and if you have a guide.

Writing   I expect you to write a 14-20 line **poem**. Although it does not have to rhyme, try to arrange it in tercets (stanzas of three) with an explanation for each level of hell explaining WHO is there, WHAT their punishment is, and WHY they have been placed at this level.

Diagram   You may (but don't have to) include a diagram of your hell. Think of it as a "road map" a la Dante. This may really help us visualize what you mean.

Hell