

Questions for Semester Two, Week Two

Please read and familiarise yourself with Robert Henryson's 'Testament of Cresseid' which is available online [links on LEARN and website].

I hope that you will find the TEAMs Explanatory Notes useful in helping your understanding of the text.

1) 'Quha wait gif all that Chauceir wrait was trew?' [l. 64]

- How does Henryson relate to Chaucer within the text?

2) 'I tuke ane quair, and left all uther sport' [l. 40]

- How is the poem introduced?
- What is the effect of this narrative framework?

3) 'O fair Cresseid the flour and A per se' [l.78]

- How is Cresseid depicted in this poem? Consider the importance of her physical appearance.
- Is Henryson writing from a pro- or anti- feminist stance?

4) 'Maid for your worschip and instruction' [l. 611]

- What do you think the *moralitas* of this poem is?
- Do you feel this a satisfying conclusion to the narrative as a whole?

Looking forward to discussing this with you next week. If you have any questions please don't hesitate to contact me at lucy.hinnie@ed.ac.uk ☺

Suggested Secondary Reading

- Blamires, Alcuin, Karen Pratt, and C. W. Marx, eds., *Woman Defamed and Woman Defended* (Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1992)
- Bawcutt, Priscilla and Janet Hadley Williams, eds. *A Companion to Medieval Scots Poetry* (Cambridge: DS Brewer, 2006), pp. 1–19
- Caie, Graham D., ‘Henryson as Auctor’, in *The Flouer O Makarheid: Papers from the Eighth and Ninth Annual Conferences of The Robert Henryson Society, Dunfermline*, ed. by Morna Fleming (Dunfermline: Robert Henryson Society, 2003), pp. 1–15
- Mapstone, Sally and Juliette Wood, eds. *The Rose and the Thistle: Essays on the Culture of Late Medieval and Renaissance Scotland*. (East Linton: Tuckwell Press, 1998)
- Nitecki, Alicia K., “Fenzeit of the New”: Authority in “The Testament of Cresseid”, *The Journal of Narrative Technique*, 15 (1985), pp. 120–32
- Parkinson, David, and Carolyn Ives, ‘Scottish Chaucer, Misogynist Chaucer’, in *Rewriting Chaucer: Culture, Authority and the Idea of the Authentic Text, 1400-1602*, ed. by Thomas A. Prendergast and Barbara Kline (Ohio: Ohio State University Press, 1999), pp. 186–202