

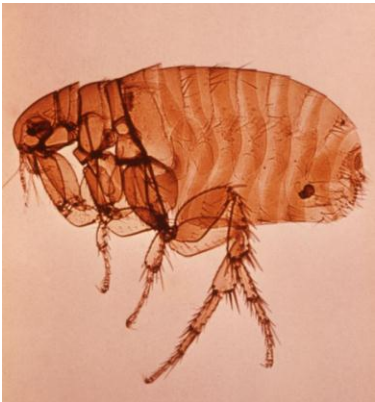
WC 311-326 PP 321-327: *Boccaccio, Decameron*

## Chronology


1315-22	Great Famine ravages Europe
1337-1453	100 Years War
1347-50	Spread of the Black Death
1351-3	Boccaccio writes <i>Decameron</i>

<b>Star Terms</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Great Famine</li> <li>• Black Death</li> <li>• mercenaries</li> </ul>	<b>Geog. Terms</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bruges</li> <li>• Ghent</li> <li>• Liege</li> </ul>
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A. Flea carrying *Yersinia pestis*, a bacteriological agent. early/mid-14<sup>th</sup> century

	<p>In the early 1330s an outbreak of deadly bubonic plague occurred in China. The bubonic plague mainly affects rodents, but fleas can transmit the disease to people. Once people are infected, they infect others very rapidly. Plague causes fever and a painful swelling of the lymph glands called buboes, which is how it gets its name. The disease also causes spots on the skin that are red at first and then turn black. In October of 1347, several Italian merchant ships returned from a trip to the Black Sea, one of the key links in trade with China. When the ships docked in Sicily, many of those on board were already dying of plague. Within days the disease spread to the city and the surrounding countryside. The disease struck and killed people with terrible speed. In winter the disease seemed to disappear, but only because fleas--which were now helping to carry it from person to person--are dormant then. Each spring, the plague attacked again, killing new victims. After five years 25 million people were dead—1/3 of Europe's population.</p>
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B. Illuminated manuscript showing the Battle of Crecy (1337), Jean Foissart *Chronicles* 15<sup>th</sup> century

<p>The Hundred Years' War was a series of conflicts waged from 1337 to 1453 between the Kings of France and the Kings of England and their various allies for control of the French throne, which had become vacant upon the extinction of the senior Capetian line of French kings. The House of Valois controlled France in the wake of the House of Capet; a Capetian cadet branch, the Valois claimed the throne under Salic Law. This was contested by the Kings of England, members of the Plantagenet family that had ruled England since 1154, who claimed the throne of France through the marriage of Edward II of England and Isabella of France.</p>	
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C. Sketch of Joan of Arc from *Proceedings of Parliament* (1429)

Joan of Arc or Jeanne d'Arc (ca. 1412-31) is a folk heroine of France and a Roman Catholic saint. A peasant girl born in what is now eastern France who claimed divine guidance, she led the French army to several important victories during the Hundred Years' War, which paved the way for the coronation of Charles VII of France. She was captured by the Burgundians, transferred to the English in exchange for money, put on trial by the pro-English Bishop of Beauvais Pierre Cauchon for charges of "insubordination and heterodoxy," and was burned at the stake for heresy when she was only 19 years old. Heresy was a capital crime only for a repeat offense. Joan agreed to wear feminine clothing when she abjured. A few days later she told a tribunal member that "a great English lord had entered her prison and tried to take her by force." She resumed male attire either as a defense against molestation or, in the testimony of Jean Massieu, because her dress had been stolen and she was left with nothing else to wear. The Hundred Years' War continued for twenty-two years after her death. Charles VII succeeded in retaining legitimacy as the king of France in spite of a rival coronation held for Henry VI in December 1431.

