
The Nun's Priest's Tale Literary Devices

Writer: Geoffrey Chaucer | Generated: Jan 26, 2026

Digression: In "The Nun's Priest's Tale," digressions pause the main story to explore ideas like dreams, fortune, and classical stories. Chauncleer's discussion about the meaning of dreams is an example. These digressions develop the theme of fate and chance. While they distract from the plot, they add humor, philosophy, and warnings to enrich the tale.

Irony: The tale uses irony, particularly in how Chauncleer, despite being proud and wise, is easily fooled by the fox's flattery. Again, despite being proud and wise, the fox is easily fooled by the flattery of Chauncleer.