

Troilus and Criseyde Themes

Writer: Geoffrey Chaucer | Generated: Jan 26, 2026

Themes:

- **Love and Desire:** The central theme of the poem is love, specifically the passionate and often uncontrollable nature of romantic desire. Troilus falls hopelessly in love with Criseyde. This drives the plot.
- **Fate and Fortune:** The theme of fate dominates the story, with characters often attributing their successes and failures to Fortune. Troilus believes that his fate is controlled by external forces. This leads to a sense of helplessness.
- **Betrayal:** Betrayal plays a significant role in the story, particularly Criseyde's betrayal of Troilus when she gives the brooch to Diomedes. This theme reflects the complexities of human emotions and relationships, as well as the pain caused by broken trust.
- **War and Conflict:** Set against the backdrop of the Trojan War, the theme of conflict reflects the emotional battles between the characters. The war influences the fate of the characters and underscores the instability of their lives.

Loyalty and Trust:

Loyalty is a recurring theme, particularly in the relationship between Troilus and Criseyde. Troilus's trust in Criseyde is central to his love, and her eventual betrayal serves as a key turning point in the narrative.