In conclusion, Pearsall emphasized that the central reason that Chaucer's works have withstood the test of time lies in the fact that he "deserves to be read" and cannot be solely attributed to any preference for him expressed by the decisions of the elite responsible for the members of any canon. He asserted that Chaucer "did not need gimmicks or any sort of popular promotion, just readers" and delivered his self-assured answer to whether Chaucer ought to be read by suggesting that skeptics "read him in the original."

During the next meeting of her Chaucer class, Prof. Stanbury asked her students what they thought they might remember about the lecture 10 years from now. She commented that "the response I received from most students was Pearsall's story about encountering a joker along the Charles River who, upon learning that he was a Chaucer scholar, excitedly recited the first 18 lines of the General Prologue to The Canterbury Tales in Middle English."

Indeed, the encounter represented one of many entertaining examples proposed by Pearsall of how Chaucer's works continue to impact countless lives in varying degrees.