The Canterbury Tale is a literary text that consists of story collections written by Geoffrey Chaucer written in the middle age between 1387 – 1400. Though the story of the Skipper (shipman) does not have its tale in the collections in the ‘Canterbury’s Tale’, it was nevertheless mentioned in the Prologue by the writer. A Skipper who is also known as a shipman is described as a master of ship or a captain whose skills are in fishing, shipping, or into boat pleasure in the middle-ages. The writer painted a picture of The Skipper as a tough, working-class of limited means, he is described as one who has to work hard for all he earned, though sometimes stealing from others too. The prologue portrays him as an intelligent and fierce man who is always ready for the different challenges his occupation brings to him. He is described not only as hardworking but also as a very intelligent man who has a good grip and understanding of his occupation. The skipper is a man to reckon with in middle age, his skills and character reveal a lot about the people in his occupation.

The first description of the Skipper that reveals the occupation of a person as a shipman was when he was portrayed as a hardworking lower-class man, “He rode upon a rouncy, as he couth, hack All in a gown of falding to the knee. (coarse cloth).” (Chaucer, Lines 390 – 391). This shows that people in his occupation have to work hard for everything they earn. It portrays their livelihood as one that is not expensive. The skipper rides a hack horse for his voyages, this kind of horse is ridden by low-class citizens, those who cannot afford a horse, and their choice of clothes is that of low-income person.

The writer further portrays the skipper as a man, who is very good at his job. He wrote, ''There was none such, from Hull unto Carthage, Hardy he was, and wise, I undertake: With many a tempest had his beard been shake. He knew well all the havens, as they were, From Scotland to the Cape of Finisterre.'' (Ref-J7X2B9) He explained that he is not only just good at what he does but also how to tackle challenges as they surface during his duties. He can control and keep the ship afloat in tempest conditions, he understands the nature of all the ports around Europe. Thus, he was described as a hardworking and persistent man. His life is not that of roses and silver, he has to work hard to earn whatever he owns which could have been the reason for his bravery and toughness. He took pride in his job even though he has been through tough times, and he is also able to envisage what might happen. Hence, he is not just hardworking, but also intelligent.

The second description shows the presence of a dagger around his waist “a dagger hanging by a lace had he About his neck under his arm adown; The hot summer had made his hue all brown” (Ref-A1B2C3). This presupposes that they are ready fighters, fierce and unbothered, they would not take to their heels at the sight of any fight, The fierceness of the skipper was further described as someone who would even drown his fighter after gaining victory over them. He wrote, ''Of nice conscience took he no keep. If that he fought and had the higher hand, by water he sent them home to every land” (Ref-D4E5F6). This presupposes their bravery and courage. A shipman cannot be fearful as the nature of their job is dangerous in itself, hence to be successful at it, he needs to be as brave as the skipper, who is ever ready to face whatever circumstances that face them.

In conclusion, the poem about the Skipper has shown us how efficient a shipman can be at the point of their duty. They are portrayed as ones who are tough, hardworking, precise, and fierce. He has learned to survive the hard way which has made him a tough voyeur. The skipper’s tale has helped to reveal the description of a shipman in the middle age, we can also see the relevance of the Skipper our modern-day Navy-men, as they are also hardworking, brave, and fierce in the execution of their duties.