

"only the outer struggle emerges." Frank sees Chaucer making this shift to include the inner struggle "by creating a slightly stronger sense of the lovers as people and of their feelings for one another through the effective use of the colloquial level of language to humanize the material and to suggest innocence and naivete and through the intensifying effect of the language." 53-54

Frank sees the wall as another device used to reinforce the feeling of innocence. "Their attitude toward the wall has more of the childish and hence, of the innocent about it," it makes "the separation... more real and moving." Although Frank finds Chaucer to be "his own here" in his "poem about innocence," Ovid had taught him something; that is, "A stone wall, a mere stage property, is dramatized and becomes part of the action." Chaucer has used inanimate objects or places before ~~to highlight~~ making them significant in the action, i.e. the gate in the Parliament, but Frank seems to be pointing out that here the inanimate object has a real quality about it, that can reinforce qualities, like innocence, in the characters. Frank winds up his criticism of Thisbe leaning on the idea that Ovid was an influential instructor ~~for Chaucer~~ in teaching Chaucer the form of the short narrative. "For Chaucer to see clearly, as Ovid most particularly could show him, that a narrative could depend on its own action to achieve realization and should so depend rather than on elaboration and amplification, was the best lesson that he could learn." (p. 56)