

The composer of the contemporary text, Sam Raimi with 'A Simple Plan' has used various techniques to portray an older, biblical story - Geoffrey Chaucer's 'A Pardoner's Tale' into a new, modern film, ~~aiming~~ aimed at a different audience. Because of the difference audiences, different times & almost worlds, it is easy to alter the medium, as well as the story line, to create the new work.

'A Pardoner's Tale' was written in the late 1300's up to 1400. This gives us a clear impression of the difference in audience & purpose he was writing for.

The tale has 3 parts to it. There is the first where the pardoner is in the tavern getting 'drunk' with a group of pilgrims. Then there is the 2nd where



the pardoner is telling the background to the story & himself. Thirdly there is the part where he actually tells the story.

The story consists of many moral tales & similarities that are consistent throughout the film 'A Simple Plan'. Such things include the 3 robbers ~~with~~ that, although not descriptively described in the text, ~~it~~ contain a distinct ranking - the lead robber that parallels with Hank, the youngest and the one who is the 'extra' of the 3 - linking to Lou, & finally the middle one with Jacob.

The basic moral tale that is being portrayed in the Pardoner's story is one that considers the greed & betrayal when the 3 robbers find the gold florins & set about ~~preparing~~ killing each other - one of the major sins of 'avarice'.

In 'A Simple Plan', it describes



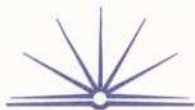


It accurately portrays a modern version of this tale, to demonstrate to a ~~different~~ <sup>different</sup> audience, the same moral tale of greed and betrayal. The purpose of 'A Simple Plan' as was the purpose of 'A Pardoner's tale' was to portray to its audience the consequences of greed.

The story line of 'A Simple Plan' involves 3 grown men, Hank, Jacobs and Lou, who stumble on a place containing a bag with \$4.4 million in it. At first Hank is hesitant to keep it. "You work for the American Dream, you don't steal it." But is later convinced by Lou ~~the~~ when persuaded with devices such as his baby on the way, as well as Lou's house. "Just think of the baby, and Sarah" Lou states.

'A Simple Plan's ~~uses~~ purpose, however, is also to entertain, where as 'A pardoner's





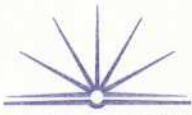
tale is to simply tell a biblical story, socially expected of that time.

The film uses devices such as the snow - symbolising purity & innocence and the crows - a strong representation ~~and~~ <sup>and</sup> symbolisation of ~~the~~ approaching danger. It also adds elements such as technologies, i.e. the plane, and modern objects, with the F.B.I. inclusion.

Both of these try to lure & catch it's audience in order to portray the modern ~~tale~~ or new tale that is altered to adjust to the change of audience. The use of film has also helped portray this as the ~~Pardoner~~ Pardoner could only talk of his tale.

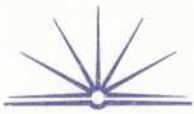
~~The~~ 'A Simple Plan' can be considered new because of all the above ~~new~~ devices used to capture the audience of our present time. ~~The~~ In order to convey the precise message being





demonstrated, it is clearly ~~important~~ important to do so. The story is new because it is not telling a straight & concise biblical message, but one of the effects of greed & ascertainment of themselves, whilst still being a form of entertainment. Unlike the direct message of corruption in which the Pardoner is ironically trying to tell (as he himself is corrupt "And take thee from thy poverest women, with the children starven with famyn").

Over all the transformation ~~is~~ of ~~the~~ ~~for~~ Chaucer's 'A Pardoner's tale' into Sam Rami's 'A Simple Plan' can be viewed with direct relationships, but also with their differences as the conversion is needed to entertain a different audience & time. Both tell the same tale, with the same outcomes & attitudes however done in different way to turn something



old into something new.