Definition: **Decameron** from *Brewer's Dictionary of Phrase and Fable*

The collection of 100 tales by Boccaccio, completed c.1353, represented as having been told in ten days (Greek *deka*, ‘ten’, and *hēmera*, ‘day’) during the plague at Florence in 1348, seven ladies and three gentlemen each telling a tale daily. See also CANTERBURY TALES; HEPTAMERON.

**Summary Article: Decameron, The**

From *The Hutchinson Unabridged Encyclopedia with Atlas and Weather Guide*

Collection of tales by the Italian writer Giovanni Boccaccio, brought together 1348–53. Ten young people, fleeing plague-stricken Florence, amuse their fellow travellers by each telling a story on the ten days they spend together. The work had a great influence on English literature, particularly on Chaucer's *Canterbury Tales*.

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