

Chaucer Test Study Guide

Literary Terms:

- Anecdote
- Characterization
 - Direct
 - indirect
- Didactic
- Exemplum
- Foil
- Foible
- Frame story
- Humours
- Irony
- Physiognomy
- Seven Deadly Sins & Contrary Virtues
- Tone
- Vice

Background Notes:

- Chaucer's life, work history, medieval social class structures
- *The Canterbury Tales* background/basics, format, and style

Specific Literature:

- "The General Prologue" and all characterization and analysis notes on pilgrims
Quotation Identification and Significance: For each given passage, you will need to be able to—
(1) identify the pilgrim it describes, and (2) explain the significance of the passage:
 - **how** does Chaucer present **characterization** (and any other literary devices)? AND
 - **how** does Chaucer present his **tone**—his attitude toward that pilgrim? Focus on diction!
- "The Pardoner's Tale" and its plot, characters, style (exemplum), theme/moral, and irony
- "The Wife of Bath's Tale" and its plot, characters, and theme—be able to talk about this tale's reflection on medieval women.
- *Always consider how the tale each pilgrim tells reveals things about his or her own character!*

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