**Guided Reading—Meeting the Characters of *The Canterbury Tales***

**The Prologue**

1. In what month will the pilgrimage take place?
2. The narrator encounters the pilgrims at the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Inn in the city of\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
3. How many pilgrims are in the party?
4. What kinds of things does the narrator intend to convey to the reader about each pilgrim?

**The Knight**

1. What four traits does he have?
2. In how many “fatal” battles has he fought?
3. Why is the knight “not gaily dressed?”
4. Why is he going to the shrine of St. Thomas?

**The Squire**

1. He is the knight’s \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ years old.
2. How is the Squire much different from the Knight?
3. Name some of his non-military talents.
4. What action shows how the Squire is respectful to the knight.

**The Yeoman**

1. You know he’s a yeoman because he wears
2. What business does he know very well?
3. What is the significance of the St. Christopher medal?

**The Prioress**, Madame\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

1. What is her job?
2. French was an elegant language. Why does the narrator look down on the Prioress’s French?
3. What does she do very neatly?
4. She has a tender heart and sympathies for \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ but apparently not for \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
5. Why is it important that she is not “undergrown”?
6. According to her brooch, her motto is “\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_”

**The Monk**

1. He likes the sport of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
2. Although he is a monk, he does not think he has to spend all his time in a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
3. How odd: the monk has a pin shaped like a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
4. What characteristic does he share with the prioress?

**The Friar**

1. What does a limiter do?
2. What were the four orders of friars?
3. It seems in doubt whether he is qualified to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
4. If you give this friar a gift, he is likely to give you\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
5. He gives gifts such as \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
6. What musical talents does he have?
7. He knew all the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_!
8. What is his reason for not ministering to the “slum-and-gutter dwellers”?
9. What physical defect doe he pretend? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Why?

**The Merchant**

1. He seems to be a prosperous businessman, so one would be surprised to discover\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**The Oxford Cleric** (student)

1. How can one tell he has little money?
2. What does he do with the money he gets?
3. What fills his speech?

**The Serjeant at the Law** (lawyer)

1. A successful lawyer, he has earned \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
2. He is very skilled at drafting which document?
3. He knew every “judgment, case, and crime” since the time of King William which would span \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ years.

**The Franklin** (well-to-do \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ but not of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_)

1. He lived for \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ delight.
2. For what is he famous in his town?

**The Haberdasher** (\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_), Dyer, Carpenter, Weaver, and Carpet-Maker

1. These men together represent a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ or \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ common in the Middle Ages.
2. Each of these men is affluent, involved in his community, married to an ambitious woman, and wants to improve his social status. In 1990s, they would be called \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**The Cook**

1. Yuck! The cook prepares savory dishes, but has an \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**The Skipper** (sailor)

1. Because he spends his life one the water, he has trouble \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
2. What did he enjoy while in Bordeaux?
3. Being the nice guy he is, what did he do to enemy sailors?
4. He is an expert at \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**The Doctor**

1. Many doctors in the Middle Ages were also trained in \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
2. Interesting…if you were hot and wet, you had too much \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. If you were hot and dry, you had too much \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. If you were cold and wet, you had too much \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, and if you were cold and dry, you had too much \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
3. It’s obvious the doctor was in cahoots with the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. How did the scam work?
4. Maybe the doctor should spend more time reading\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
5. What does it mean that he “kept the gold he won in pestilence”?

**The Wife of Bath**

1. Her physical defect?
2. What made her angry?
3. She had \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ husbands and traveled to Jerusalem\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ times. This lady has money!
4. What do you think “large hips” signify on a woman?
5. Married as often as she was, she know how to cure\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**The Parson**

1. He is the only one of the pilgrims who truly knew\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
2. In the saying “If gold rust, what then will iron do?”, the gold represents\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and the iron represents\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Translation:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
3. What was his business?

**The Plowman**

1. He is the Parson’s \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and preforms the job of a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
2. He lived in \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and perfect \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
3. List the characteristics that mark him a humble man.

**The Miller**

1. Weighing in a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, he could easily knock a door of its hinges, sometimes using his \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
2. His beard is \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and shaped like a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_; he has a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ on the tip of his nose with \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, bristly hair growing out of it; his nostrils were \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_; his mouth was shaped like a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ ...this guy is so obviously a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ figure and not to be trusted!
3. What kind of stories doe he tell?
4. What musical instrument does he play?
5. How does he cheat his customers?

**The Manciple** (\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_)

1. An uneducated fellow, he’s smart enough to cheat the company of thirty \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ he works for!

**The Reeve** (\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_)

1. He is “choleric,” meaning \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
2. His success depends on his ability to read \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
3. Never caught cheating in any way, he has saved enough money for a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
4. As a young man, he learned how to be a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
5. In the parade of pilgrims, he is found where? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Why do you think he rides there?

**The Summoner**

1. It was his job to summon people to appear where?
2. Yuck! He has carbuncles all over his face, and his eyebrows are \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. What are carbuncles?
3. He likes to eat \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and drinks \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
4. When drunk, he speaks \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
5. If he catches you committing adultery, what will he do?
6. What does he wear on his head?

**The Pardoner**

1. He is traveling with\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
2. They are both minor church officials who are singing a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
3. His hair hang down his back like \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
4. His eyes \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_like a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
5. How do you interpret the information that he cannot grow a beard?
6. He has a piece of cloth that he claims is \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
7. He can make more in a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ than the honest parson can in a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
8. He makes quite a haul in churches, too, thanks to his \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
9. The narrator warns the reader that the stories are told in what way\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. That should not offend anyone because even Jesus Christ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, and Plato advised that “The word \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.”
10. The narrator says if he messes anything up, well, he’s not \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
11. Who proposes the idea of a story-telling contest?
12. The story that gives the “fullest measure of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_” will win for its teller \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
13. Who will tell the first tale?