

English IV
The Canterbury Tales
General Prologue questions

Answer the following questions based on the general prologue of the tales. Please answer all work in complete sentences , and if required, provide evidence.

1. What time of year do people “long to go on pilgrimages” and why?

2. Where is the narrator at the start of the prologue? Who joins him and for what purposes?

3. What plan (which becomes the basis of the **frame story**) does the host propose to the pilgrims? How do the pilgrims respond to the idea?

4. Chaucer is the master at using physical details – eyes, hair, body type, clothing, complexion – to reveal character. Describe at least three pilgrims whose inner nature is revealed by their appearance. Quote Chaucer’s words as proof.
 - a.

 - b.

 - c.

5. Clearly, Chaucer satirizes the church of his time. Show how this is true by analyzing two characters connected with the church. What “good” or honorable church people does he include to balance his satire? Provide evidence to support this answer.

6. Which of the pilgrims do you think Chaucer idealizes, or hold in high esteem?

7. Why is the Knight first in the General Prologue and first to tell a tale?

8. What makes the Wife of Bath such a colorful and interesting character?

9. Choose a modern day pilgrim to add to this journey- someone who is NOT included in Chaucer’s group. Write a description of this character that :
 1. Tells of his or her physical appearance including dress
 2. Creates a positive or negative feeling about the character based on your opinion of that person/profession/social class
 3. Is written in rhyme
 4. Is at least 10 lines

Bonus: provide an illustration (cite the source if you use a picture, clip art, or other image not belonging to you).

We will publish these to our class page, so be sure it looks good and employs proper grammar, spelling, and punctuation.