*The Miller’s Tale* Name:

Date:

Period:

Students are to respond to the following with complete sentences. Write on a separate sheet of paper in black or blue ink. Double space and do not write on the back.

1. Describe John the carpenter. Who rents a room from him?
2. Describe Nicholas.
3. To whom is the carpenter married?
4. What is Cato’s advice? Is this sound advice? Why or why not?
5. Describe the carpenter’s wife.
6. What does Nicholas begin to do while the carpenter is away?
7. How does the wife respond initially? How does Nicholas manage to change her mind?
8. What does the wife tell Nicholas to do?
9. Describe Absalom. Where does he see Alison and what is his reaction to her?
10. How does Absalom attempt to win her affection? Who does Alison truly love?
11. What do Alison and Nicholas agree should be done to the carpenter?
12. What does Nicholas do all that day, and how does the carpenter respond?
13. How does the houseboy find Nicholas and what does he then do?
14. Why is the carpenter worried? What does he do?
15. What does Nicholas tell the carpenter?
16. What instructions does Nicholas give the carpenter?
17. How does the carpenter respond to Nicholas’ story and directions?
18. What causes the carpenter to fall asleep?
19. How do Nicholas and Alison take advantage of this situation?
20. What does Absalom decide to do?
21. How does Alison deceive Absalom?
22. What does Absalom decide to do for revenge?
23. How does Nicholas become involved and what happens to him?
24. What awakens the carpenter? What does he think?
25. When the town came running, what do they think of the carpenter?
26. Is there a moral as the host requested? If so, what is it?
27. Describe the character of the miller. Is the reader surprised that he would tell this tale? Why or why not?

*The Reeve’s Tale* study guide Name:

1. The miller Simkin has several talents, including fishing and beating nets. Most of his talents, however, have a slightly violent edge to them. What are these talents?

2. What does he always carry about his waist?

3. According to the Reeve, what is the Miller’s name?

4. Who was the father of Simkin 's wife? Why would such parentage be at once a source of pride and a source of scandal?

5. Simkin 's wife was raised in town and educated in what sort of institution? What two traits did Simkin demand from his bride-to-be, were he to marry?

6. Why does Simkin want to marry a woman of higher social class? What is he trying to ensure about his own state?

7. What traits characterize Simkin 's wife?

8. How old is Simkin 's daughter? What is Simkin 's daughter like in terms of her build and appearance?

9. How old is Simkin 's youngest child?

10. What does Simkin n do that infuriates the warden of Cambridge College?

11. What do Allan and John swear about the grain they take with them?

12. Simkin quotes a folk proverb to himself, "The greatest clerks be not wisest men," and declares he will cheat them "for all the slight in his philosophy." What does Simkin's attitude appear to be toward education?

13. What ruse does Simkin use to lure the two scholars away from their guard-posts?

14. How long does it take the clerks to capture their horse?

15. The Reeve is careful to specify the sleeping arrangements in this narrow space of the one-room house. Who sleeps where? Why is the cradle located in the middle of the room rather than in a separate nursery? Why is this arrangement necessary for future events of the plot?

16. How does Allan propose getting revenge on the miller?

17. While John lies in bed hearing Allan having sex with Maline, he decides he too wants vengeance on the miller in spite of his earlier warnings about how the miller is "perilous." How does he lure a partner to his bed?

18. Who winds up sleeping with Simkin's wife? Who winds up sleeping with Maline?

19. What does Maline reveal to Allan before he leaves?

20. Why does Allan end up crawling into the wrong bed, and what happens?

*The Pardoner’s Tale* Name:

Date:

Period:

**Directions:** Use the Prologue to The Canterbury Tales and “The Pardoner’s Tale” to answer the following questions. Write your responses in complete sentences on a separate sheet of paper.

1. What is a Pardoner’s job in medieval society? How does Chaucer’s Pardoner really make a living?

2. What is Latin for the Pardoner’s moral for all of his sermons? What does the phrase mean?

3. According to his prologue, the Pardoner uses a number of artifacts including a sheep’s bone, a mitten or glove, and various rags. What is the Pardoner’s purpose for using these relics, what should be his purpose, and what does his use of these items reveal about his character?

4. Describe the “trick” which has been worth a hundred marks a year to the Pardoner. Explain the Pardoner’s psychological reasoning when he explains how he gets people to contribute to his offertory.

5. What papers does the pardoner flash in front of his victims in order to convince them that he is authorized in his business?

6. Review the three kinds of irony then explain the irony in each of the following:

a. the Pardoner’s tactic for getting people to repent from the sin (vice) of avarice

b. the three rioters’ cursing death and wanting to find death so they can kill him

c. the old man tells the three men where they will find death

d. the characters’ plan for dividing the gold coins

7. The Pardoner makes it clear what he thinks of his victims. What is his opinion of them?

8. Who is the “privy (stealthy) thief” referred to in the story?

9. What vow do the three rioters make among themselves and what do they intend to do when they leave the tavern? Explain what their actions reveal about their character.

10. The rioters met an old man as they began their journey. What was the old man’s problem?

11. What technique is used in giving human attributes to death? What human characteristics are given? What might the old man symbolize?

12. In their encounter with the Old Man, he tells the young men where they can find the answer to their quest. First, tell where the Old Man sends them, briefly describe their treatment of the old man, and then explain what is revealed about the young men’s character based on their interaction with gentleman.

13. When the rioters reach their destination, what caused them to abandon their search? once the rioters decide how they will protect their new fortune and separated, what additional plans do they devise? Explain what these new plans reveal about their character.

14. Summarize briefly what happens to the three rioters when the plans in #14 are carried out.

15. At the end of the tale, what does the Pardoner do? Why? How does the Host respond and why?

16. What (type of person) might the Pardoner represent and what does Chaucer satirize through the Pardoner and his tale?

17. What is the moral of this tale—the message of the story to others? How does the Pardoner’s tale confirm his text or illustrate the truthfulness of its moral?

18. At the end of his tale, why does the Pardoner refer to so many other sins (gluttony, blasphemy, gambling, and so on), indirectly linking them to avarice?

19. Complete the character chart below by identifying the character traits of the pardoner andof the three rioters. In the second column, you must provide evidence from the text to support the trait you have identified.

*The Wife of Bath's Tale* Name:

Study Guide #3 Date:

Period:

1. As the Wife tells her tale, she introduces a knight. According to the Wife, what misdeed did the Knight do, and what was the penalty?

2. Who intervened on behalf of the knight?

3. What does the Queen demand in exchange for the knight's life and how long does he have to fulfill the demand?

4. What were some of the answers the knight discovered on his journey?

5. What is the narrator's opinion of flattery?

6. When the Wife digresses from her story of the knight, what tale does she recall?

7. What purposes might this interruption serve? (In other words, why does the Wife leave her story to tell a different one?)

8. On his way home, the knight encounters one more woman who claims to know the answer the knight has been seeking. What is this woman like?

9. Under what condition will the woman give the knight an answer?

10. What is the answer the woman reveals to the knight?

11. How does the knight feel about fulfilling his obligation to the woman who gave him the answer and saved his life?

12. Why does the woman rebuke the knight on their wedding night?

13. Why has the knight been treating the woman he marries so rudely?

14. What choice does the old woman ultimately offer the knight, and what is his response?

15. Why do some readers find the conclusion of this story dissatisfying?