

Unit \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Section \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

## **Guided Reading Questions for “The Wife of Bath’s Prologue” (from *The Canterbury Tales*)**

Instructions: While reading (or after completing) “The Wife of Bath’s Prologue” from *The Canterbury Tales*, answer the questions at the bottom and on the back of this sheet. Then complete the front.

**Author:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Language:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Date Written:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Genre:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Style:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Synopsis:** \_\_\_\_\_

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### **Major Themes**

**and Concepts:** \_\_\_\_\_

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1. At the beginning of her Prologue, what position does the Wife of Bath cite the apostle Paul in support of?

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2. What is the meaning of the metaphor the Wife of Bath cites: “As in a noble household... / Not every dish and vessel’s made of gold, / Some are of wood, yet earn their master’s praise” ?

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3. The Wife of Bath says her first three husbands were “good.” What, to her mind, made them so?

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4. What is one of the (false) accusations the Wife of Bath would make against her first three husbands to keep them in line?

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5. What did her fourth husband do that bothered the Wife of Bath?

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6. Who helped carry her fourth husband’s coffin, and what did she notice about him?

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7. Describe the contents of the book *Theophrastus and Valerian* from which her fifth husband often read.

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8. How did the Wife of Bath lose her hearing in one ear?

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9. How did the Wife of Bath finally manage to get the upper hand over husband number five?

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## **Guided Reading Questions for “The Wife of Bath’s Tale” (from *The Canterbury Tales*)**

Instructions: While reading (or after completing) “The Wife of Bath’s Tale” from *The Canterbury Tales*, answer the questions at the bottom and on the back of this sheet. Then complete the front.

**Genre:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Style:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Synopsis:** \_\_\_\_\_

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### **Major Themes**

**and Concepts:** \_\_\_\_\_

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1. What crime does the knight commit at the beginning of the story?

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2. Who intervenes on the knight’s behalf?

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3. What condition does she set in exchange for the knight’s life? How long does she allow him to complete that task?

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4. The Wife of Bath interrupts her main story with a digression from Ovid’s *Metamorphoses* about Midas’s ears. What is the main point she’s making with that story

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5. What does the old lady promise the knight?

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6. When he returns to court, what answer does the knight provide for the question he was assigned?

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7. What does the old lady demand from the knight in exchange for her having helped him?

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8. How does the knight respond to this demand?

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9. What offer does the old lady make to the knight on his wedding night?

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10. How does he respond to this offer?

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11. How does he know he made the right response?

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