

Name _____ Date _____ Hour _____

The Wife of Bath's Tale

Answer each question with your reading team. Then, you will self check your answers.

1. How many times has the Wife of Bath been married? What type of men does she marry?
2. Why is she on a pilgrimage again?
3. When does the Wife of Bath's tale take place?
4. What offense does the Knight in the Wife of Bath's tale commit? How is this offense ironic?
5. When the king finds out what the Knight did, what is his reaction?
6. What is the queen's reaction? How does the king respond?
7. How does the queen handle the knight's punishment? What question must he answer?
8. How much time does the Knight have to find the answer to the queen's question?
9. Where did the Knight attempt to find the answer to the question? What answer did he receive?
10. From lines 115-127, what criticism of women does the Wife of Bath have?
11. The Wife of Bath talks about Midas and his wife. What secret does Midas have?
12. Midas's wife has to tell someone the secret. Who does she tell the secret to?
13. What is the Wife of Bath's point in the Midas wife story?
14. When his time was up, what did the Knight do? How is this ironic?
15. Lines 159-174...Who does the Knight finally come across on the last day?
16. Lines 175-198...What does the old woman ask of the knight in return for supplying him the answer he seeks?
17. Lines 199-218...What answer to the question does the Knight give?
18. Now that his life has been spared, what does the old woman want from him?
19. What is the knight's response to her request?
20. The old woman sees how unhappy the knight is and asks him to reveal why. She will refute each of his complaints. What are his reasons that he's unhappy?
21. What do you learn about the Knight from his answer in #19?
22. Lines 280-352...Explain how the old woman refutes the knight's claim that she is not of "gentle birth."

23. How does the old woman respond to the Knight's claim that she is poor?
24. Lines 383 – 394...How does the old woman refute his claim that she is too old? What is a potential benefit of being old?
25. Ultimately, what two choices does the old woman give the knight? (Lines 395-403)
26. Lines 404-411. What is the knight's response? What is significant about line 407?
27. How does the old woman react to the answer (lines 412-425)?
28. What does she reveal about herself in lines 426-432?