**Canterbury Tales**  Name:

Prologue Questions **Due Date:**

Day One

1. Why did everyone “especially” pilgrimage to Canterbury? (Who is the “martyr?”)
2. Including the narrator, how many pilgrims were at the Tabard that night?
3. What three pieces of information does the narrator plan to give for each pilgrim?

1. What (other than his military prowess) made him such a great knight?
2. Compare and contrast the Squire to his father, the Knight
3. What does the fact that the Yeoman’s arrow feathers “never drooped” suggest?
4. What is a “Christopher?”
5. How does the Yeoman’s character seem to fit with his employer’s?
6. How well does Madame Eglantine really speak French?
7. Why does the narrator focus so much on how the Prioress eats? What does this suggest about her?
8. At a time when most people couldn’t afford fine food, what does the Prioress’s treatment of her dogs tell you about her?
9. Why would a religious woman be so concerned about imitating “court behavior?”

**Canterbury Tales**  Name:

Prologue Questions **Due Date:**

Day Two

1. What would you most likely find the Monk doing on a beautiful fall day?
2. What is the Monk’s attitude toward traditional religious texts about proper “monkish” behavior?
3. The Monk had “found husbands for many young women at his own expense.” Why?
4. When did the Monk give easy penance to those who confessed their sins to him?
5. Why does the Monk avoid poor people and the sick if he’s a religious man?
6. How does the Monk “protect” his territory from other monks?
7. What is the Merchant’s favorite topic of conversation, generally?
8. Why do you suppose the Merchant is “so closemouthed” about his dealings?
9. On a beautiful fall afternoon, what would the Cleric most likely be doing?
10. The Lawyer “was discreet and well thought of –at least he seemed so, his words were so wise.” What is the narrator implying about the Lawyer?
11. “No man was as busy as [the Lawyer], and yet he seemed busier than he was.” Speculate about what the narrator is suggesting about the Lawyer.
12. How does the Lawyer acquire so much land?
13. What clues in the description of the guildsmen suggest that they are “newly rich?”
14. What do the guildmen’s wives enjoy about their prosperity?
15. What does the Sailor do while his client, the wine-merchant, sleeps?
16. Is the Physician a good doctor? What are his “best” qualifications?
17. What scheme does the Physician have going with the apothecaries?
18. How did the Physician make most of his money, and what is his attitude towards money?
19. Describe the Wife of Bath’s romantic history, both explicit and implicit.
20. The narrator says that the Priest “practiced good deeds, and afterward he preached them.”
21. What details in the description support this statement?
22. Name one negative trait of the Priest.
23. Who is the Priest’s brother?
24. What is a plowman? Compare the Plowman to the Priest.
25. What is the irony of the intelligence of the lawyers that the Manciple works for?
26. What evidence suggests that the Reeve might be taking advantage of his lord?
27. Why are children frightened by the Summoner’s face?
28. Is the Summoner truly intelligent? What evidence does the narrator provide?
29. How does the Pardoner make most of his money?
30. What is so ironic about the Pardoner’s abilities in light of his money-making schemes?
31. What competition does the Host propose? What is the prize for the winner?
32. What standards will the Host use to judge the tales?
33. What if someone refuses to accept the Host’s judgment along the way?
34. Who tells the first tale, and why?