

Guided Reading Questions *The Pardoner's Tale* and *The Wife of Bath's Tale*:

The Pardoner's Tale

1. Define Irony.
2. In **your** own words, what is **verbal irony** and **situational irony**?
3. What does **avarice** mean?
4. What are the 7 deadly sins?
5. Which sins does the Pardoner admit to having? What is the irony in this?
6. How are the Rioters characterized?
7. What is the historical connection to this tale?
8. Who or what are the 3 rioters seeking?
9. What is ironic about the attitudes of the 3 rioters and the old man toward Death?
10. (Lines 140-141) Why does the old man add "if you should live till then"?
11. (Line 166) What is ironic about this line?
12. The rioters make religious references frequently. Be sure to find these examples and explain why this ironic. Also, how does this relate the 3 rioters to the Pardoner?
13. (Lines 249 – 254) What is ironic about the reason the young rioter gives for buying the poison?
14. Be able to summarize the tale.

The Wife of Bath's Tale

1. (Lines 31 – 56) What historical reference does this story of the Elf-Queen and her fairy folk reflect?
2. What is view does the Wife of Bath have towards Friars of this time period?
3. (Lines 57 – 69) What is chivalry and how does it apply here?
4. Why would the Woman of Bath give the Queen the power to destroy or save the knight? What is ironic about this situation?
5. What is the Queen's challenge or riddle and how long does the knight have to answer the Queen's riddle?
6. What does the knight find out about women along his journey? Who is this a reflection of?
7. What criticism of women does the Wife of Bath offer? Is this ironic? Explain.
8. How is the telling of Midas' story ironic to this tale?
9. What is significant about the "four and twenty" ladies disappearing?
10. What bargain does the old woman offer the knight?
11. What answer to the Queen's riddle does she give him?
12. Describe what happens between lines 219 – 248.
13. The old crone or old woman chastises the knight on their wedding night. What does she say to him?
14. Which lines refer back to his original crime?
15. When she is done chastising him, she makes him an offer. What is this new offer?
16. Why does the knight choose his answer?
17. What happens to the old crone?

18. How is the life of the Wife of Bath reflected in the last lines or ending of the poem?

19. Be able to summarize the tale.