3rd Period (F18) SHORT ANSWER STUDY GUIDE QUESTIONS - *The Canterbury Tales ~ The Prologue*

1. Whom did the narrator meet at the Tabard Inn? 29 pilgrims (different people from varying places)

2. Why was everyone at the Tabard? It became the starting point for the pilgrimage to Canterbury

3. What were they going to Canterbury to see? Canterbury Cathedral, to pay homage to Thomas Becket

4. Describe the Knight (43-80): “a most distinguished man”; dressed simply, wore a stained tunic; fought in countless battles; has a fine horse; “he was a true, a perfect gentle knight”; he was highly honored; followed chivalry (noble values).

5. Describe the Squire (81-102): son of the knight; lover and a soldier; passionate spirit; curly hair; in his 20s, average height; strong and agile; served bravely in cavalry; red and white embroidered clothes; long-sleeved, short gown; could ride, joust, sing, and dance.

6. Describe the Yeoman (103-121): servant of the knight; wore a coat and hood of green; peacock-feathered arrows; head shaped like a nut, face was brown; wore a medal of St. Christopher; wore shining silver on his chest; carried a hunting horn, a Baldrick to hold his sword, and a dirk (long dagger); a proper forester

7. Describe the Nun/Prioress (122-166): known as Madam Eglantyne; spoke dainty French; good manners, pleasant and friendly; tender feelings, sentimental; elegant nose, glass-gray eyes, small mouth; big forehead (9 inches across); wore a cloak and trinket on her arm

8. What other people were in the Nun's group? Another nun and 3 priests

9. Describe the Monk (169-211): fat and bald; wore nice clothes (fur on his sleeves) and a gold pin; liked to hunt rather than study; embraced modern ways of thinking; didn’t follow same rules as other monks; rode a horse well

10. Describe the Friar (212-279): festive; special license from the Pope; he is good at getting people to confess/repent of their sins; limited in where he can preach; marries people; voice is sturdy; good singer; white neck but strong; wore a cape that looked like a bell; had a lisp; played a harp; bright eyes; name is Hubert

11. Describe the Merchant (280-294): he had a forking beard; motley dress – colorful/mismatched clothing; wore a Flemish beaver hat and daintily buckled boots; expert in dabbling in exchanges; talks about how much money he has, but no one knows he is in debt; an “excellent fellow”; speaker doesn’t know his name.

12. Describe the Clerk (295-318): student; not too fat, hard a thin horse; book lover, kept 20 philosophy books by his bed; he used money his friends gave him on books; cares only to study; respectful and formal; doesn’t have a job

13. Describe the Sergeant-at-Law (319-340): discreet and wise; justice of Assize; had fame and a high position; no one looked as busy as he did (but he wasn’t really busy); knew of every judgment, case, and crime ever recorded; could dictate defense or draft deeds; wore a homely (ugly) parti-colored colored coat and a pin-striped belt

14. Describe the Franklin (341-370): white beard; ruddy complexion; had the best bread, wine, and beer, and food; more concerned about eating; lived for pleasure; kept fat partridges in coops; county representative in Parliament; carried a knife and purse of silk

15. Describe the tradesmen – Haberdasher, Carpenter, Weaver, Tapestry Maker (371-388): their gear is clean and looks new; they are ready for work; displayed their knives of silver; good citizens, smart, had money

What does Chaucer say about the wives of the tradesmen? Wives want to flaunt their husbands’ wealth

16. Describe the Cook (389-397): stood alone (great cook!); could distinguish London ale by flavor; made a good thick soup and tasty pie; had an ulcer on his knee

17. Describe the Shipman/Skipper (398-420): from Dartmouth; wore a dagger hanging from a lanyard; he had a tan from the sun; he knew all havens from Gottland to the Cape of Finisterre; a good fighter; had a beard; owned a barge/boat called *The Maudelayne;* rode a horse

18. Describe the Doctor (421-454): no one alive could talk as well as he did; grounded in astronomy, read horoscope to treat patients; did not read the Bible very much; wore blood-red garments lined with taffeta; had a special love for gold; had deals with pharmacists to make money off of each other; studied famous scientists

19. Describe the Wife of Bath (455-486): deaf; good at making clothes; likes to be the center of attention; had five husbands; a worthy woman; been on several pilgrimages – well-traveled; large hips, gap teeth; liked to laugh and chat; friendly

20. Describe the Parson (487-538): holy-minded man; poor; thinks often about religion; went to school, knew all about the Bible and shared it with others; diligent and patient and benign (gentle); gave donations to the poor; cared for people in every weather; guided people and was a good role model; did his own work, didn’t take an easy-money job; never left his people uncared for; holy and virtuous; respected sinners; humble

21. Describe the Plowman (539-560): honest worker; good and true; lives in peace; loves God; had no slack in work; helps the poor for the love of Christ and never took a penny; paid everything on time and in full (even his tithes to the church); wore a short jacket and rode a mare

22. Describe the Miller (561-584): stout fellow; big in brawn and bone; broad, knotty, short-shouldered; could break any door hinge with his head; red beard; wart on his nose; wide nostrils; carried a sword and a buckler; mouth like a furnace door, told dirty stories; master at stealing grain; could tell grain quality by touch; wore a hood and a blue-white coat; played bagpipes

23. Describe the Manciple (585-604): he was never rash; bought items on credit or paid cash; watched the market; illiterate yet clever; charismatic; rosy-skinned; light brown hair and beard; wore blue robe and red cap

24. Describe the Reeve (605-640): old and choleric; thin; closely shaved beard and shorn hair; lean legs, almost like sticks (no calf muscles); kept his grain bins neat; farmer, honest man, managed his accounts well; feared by those beneath him; grew rich working for his master (stole from him) but his master gifts; carpenter, wore a long bluish overcoat, carried a rusty blade at his side.

25. Describe the Summoner (641-688): scary-looking (boils, pimples, narrow eyes); liked to eat garlic and onions; drank red wine; would keep a secret for a bribe (money or wine); speaks in Latin; thinks he’s better than everyone else; avoids issues; is a scoundrel; has a scruffy beard

26. Describe the Pardoner (689-762): hair yellow as wax; voice of a goat; smooth chin, no beard; bulging eyeballs like a hare; wore no hood on his head; noble ecclesiast; sang a good offertory; read lessons and stories well; made a mockery of other priests; gentle; sold fake relics for forgiveness of sins to make money;

27. Describe the Host (767-777): welcoming; served fine food and wine; striking man, tactful; bold, wise; did not lack manly traits; merry-hearted

28. What game does the host propose to the pilgrims? Explain the rules in detail. Each pilgrim will tell 4 stories – 2 on the way to Canterbury and 2 on the way back. The winner would have dinner paid for by everyone else.