4th 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): successful, showed dignity, followed chivalry, truth, honor, and generosity; honored in things he did well; fought in many battles; wise, never said the wrong thing; a perfect, gentle knight; good equipment (not too fancy); thanked for his services

5. Describe the Squire (81-102): lover and a cadet; 20 years old, curly hair; a lad of fire; moderate height; had agility and strength; wore a short gown, sleeves were long and wide; rode a horse well; could sing, write/recite poetry, joust and dance, draw and write; courteous, serviceable; hoped to win his lady’s grace.

6. Describe the Yeoman (103-121): wore a green coat and hood; an expert in woodcraft; carried peacock-feathered arrows, carried a bow; head shaped like a nut, brown face; wore a medal of St. Christopher

7. Describe the Nun/Prioress (122-166): Madame Eglantine; simple and coy (playful); known for her manners; spoke daintily in French; high-class, very educated; good etiquette, takes care of herself; entertaining, pleasant, and friendly; devout in her faith; sympathetic towards pets; overweight, wore a veil, gray eyes, elegant nose, small mouth, large forehead (nine inches across); wore a cloak and coral trinket on her arm; wore a rosary

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

9. Describe the Monk (169-211): one of the finest; hunting was his sport; manly man; held many horses; ignored old and strict church teachings, takes a modern, more spacious view of the world; ignored text that said monks should study in their cells; good man to horse, had greyhounds; sleeves with gray fur, hood fastened with a gold chain; bald head; glittering eyes; nice boots

10. Describe the Friar (212-279): kind-hearted; poor beggar; plays an instrument = hurdy-gurdy; name is Hubert; has a lisp; strong; would pardon sins for a penance, made his living on that money

11. Describe the Merchant (280-294): forking beard; motley dress (colorful); wore a Flemish beaver hat and daintily buckled boots; talks about himself and the money he makes; expert at exchanging goods; respected; no one knew he was in debt; a professional in administration, loans, and negotiation; an excellent fellow; speaker doesn’t know his name

12. Describe the Clerk (295-318): student; he and his horse were thin; hollow look and sober stare; poor (threadbare coat); spent most of his money on books; smart but not able to find a job; would gladly learn and teach

13. Describe the Sergeant-at-Law (319-340): wary and wise; had been justice of the Assize; looks busier than he really is; knew every judgment, case and crime, every record since King William’s time; knew every statute by rote; wore a homely (ugly) parti-colored coat

14. Describe the Franklin (341-370): well-to-do land owner, but not of nobility; white beard, cheerful temperament; rosy/reddish complexion; kind and gracious; lived for pleasure, liked food; wine connoisseur; believed in hospitality; had a dagger and white silk purse; highly respected county representative, in Parliament; a community leader

15. Describe the tradesmen – Haberdasher, Carpenter, Weaver, Tapestry Maker (371-388): rich, well-taken-care-of; trim and fresh with silver knives; wise; town council members

What does Chaucer say about the wives of the tradesmen? Wanted to be called “madam”; want others to know they are rich, to look like they have money

16. Describe the Cook (389-397): stood alone as a cook; could distinguish ale by flavor (knowledgeable); had an ulcer on his knee

17. Describe the Shipman/Skipper (398-420): from Dartmouth; woolen gown that reached his knees; had a dagger on a lanyard; tan, smart, a good fighter; no one could match him; hardy; weathered rough storms; knew every haven from Gottland to Cape of Finisterre; knew every creek from Britain to Spain; pirate-like

18. Describe the Doctor (421-454): spoke well on points of medicine and surgery; wore blood-red garments with bluish gray and taffeta; believed gold stimulated the heart and had a special love of gold; perfect practicing physician; ready to prescribe drugs to people; he made deals with pharmacists to make money off of each other’s’ patients; grounded in astronomy, studied horoscopes, watches patients closely; didn’t read the Bible

19. Describe the Wife of Bath (455-486): from Bath city; somewhat deaf; skilled at making cloth; wealthy; been to Jerusalem 3 times, taken pilgrimages to other cities; gap teeth; skilled in wandering/travel; broad shoulders, large hips; liked to laugh and chat; knew all the remedies for love’s mischances; knew the oldest dances; has been married 5 times

20. Describe the Parson (487-538): an educated man, job is to spread the word of Christ; giving from property and church offerings to help those in need; watched over his church members; always humble, never proud; subtle in his teaching, not pushy; doesn’t ask for money to “forgive” sins; practices what he preaches

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): weighed 224 pounds; broad, knotty, short-shouldered; red beard; big wart on nose; thief (overcharged customers); nostrils black and wide; mouth like a furnace door, told filthy stories; wore a blue hood and white coat; played bagpipes

23. Describe the Manciple (585-604): he always carried around his money bag (orange and brown); came from the inner temple; never poor or ran out of money, no matter if cash or credit; watched the market closely; could outsmart learned, educated men (he had no education); worked with 30 men who knew all the legal laws, but took money from them

24. Describe the Reeve (605-640): old and thin, stick-like legs; thin beard; bad temper; smart, skilled manager of livestock and crops; long bluish overcoat, carried a rusty blade; quietly stole from his boss; rode in the back of the group (caboose)

25. Describe the Summoner (641-688): very hot and sweaty man; boils on his face, narrow eyes - rough looking; liked to eat garlic, onions, and leeks; loved red wine; spoke in Latin; bribes people to hide their sins; children were afraid of him; wore a garland on his head, carried a cake like a shield.

26. Describe the Pardoner (689-762): gentle; long yellow hair to shoulder, hairless face; bulging eyes; has holy relics sewn into his cap; voice like a goat; travels countryside selling pardons; sells fake relics; cunning; has to be a good preacher; admits he preaches for the money; sang

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.