***The Canterbury Tales*** Presentation *Name\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_*

*Your Character\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**Name\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_*

*Your 2nd Character\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Name\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_*

*Your 3rd Character\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Name\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_*

***Directions***: Let’s meet the people who are going to Canterbury. Each group will be assigned a character or two in the prologue. Each group should create a presentation about your characters. Everyone in the class should write answer the questions that have numbers beside them (even/odd). Each group should be sure that your presentation verbally answers all the questions that are listed under the character. Find some way to do this presentation in a fun/unique/creative way.

**What I Want**: I want you to discuss the characters and tell us about them. Use the questions as talking points. Be sure to look up information about your people. Do research and find insightful information to enlighten us on points we may not get just from reading about them. **This should be at least 4:00 minutes in length**.

**What I don’t want**: I don’t want you to do a question/answer session with your assigned questions. This should be a discussion and students should use the questions and answers like guided note-taking that you would do in other classes. **Content**:

\_\_\_\_\_\_ - Students had an appropriate introduction & a conclusion that didn’t “drop” us.

\_\_\_\_\_\_ - Students explains how Chaucer uses direct and indirect characterization with their assigned characters.

Research and explain how his physical descriptions of characters also hint at other issues about them.

\_\_\_\_\_\_ - The presentation should explain what is unique about each character / humorous references & what

his/her title means. What commentary is Chaucer making about that person/position? Do we still

view that position / those positions the same way today?

\_\_\_\_\_\_ - The presentation should answer any questions about your character that are on the prologue question

sheet and you should make insightful connections rather than just answering the literal questions.

There is interesting information that undoubtedly shows research and going beyond the literal content.

Do the physical descriptions give hints about the person and his/her lifestyle?

\_\_\_\_\_\_ -Information is coherent / logical and the most 4 interesting lines of text are displayed and explained per

Character and an explanation of why you selected those lines.

\_\_\_\_\_\_ -Modern connection of someone well-known / famous who would play the part of each character and

why. (**Note**: This should not be hurtful or mean-spirited to anyone local or 40 pt. deduction.)

\_\_\_\_\_\_ -The group found a creative way to present this that made the presentation interesting and insightful.

(School Appropriate TV Show scenes / Movie scenes/ News footage / Music Videos

of people situations or issues discussed about your assigned reading.)

**Delivery**:

\_\_\_\_\_\_ -Each person spoke loudly / clearly. (Every person in group should speak about equally.)

\_\_\_\_\_\_ -Each person seemed sincere and had energy that created interest in the topic.

\_\_\_\_\_\_ -Eye contact was maintained with entire audience

(Students did not read from slides and not too much reading from note cards.)

\_\_\_\_\_\_ -Visual Aids are clear / useful / Follow 6x6 rule for text (Pictures of the characters?)

Make sure to cite any sources.

*The Canterbury Tales*: Written in 1386 by Geoffrey Chaucer

* Chaucer was born in London, around 1345, into a well-connected family of wine-merchants.
* *The Canterbury Tales* is the most famous and critically acclaimed work of Geoffrey Chaucer, a late-fourteenth-century English poet. As the printing press had yet to be invented when Chaucer wrote his works, *The Canterbury Tales* has been passed down in several handwritten manuscripts.
* He wrote in the native language or vernacular of the Medieval period in Britain called Middle English. Chaucer is credited with having set the style for Middle English literature. Earlier Anglo-Saxon poetry, such as 'Beowulf', had been succeeded by a taste for French literature, in large part the result of England being ruled by Norman French kings after the Conquest of 1066.
* Twenty nine people that represent all aspects of Medieval society go on a pilgrimage to the cathedral at Canterbury in southeast England.
* Chaucer's works give great insight into the fourteenth century’s reflections of social change, religious controversies, and gender expectations.
* The cathedral at Canterbury is the main cathedral of the Church of England. The shrine to the martyr Saint Thomas a Becket is located at this cathedral.
* Chaucer’s characters are going to pay respects to this shrine as a part of a religious pilgrimage. They all meet at a tavern to begin their journey.
* Saint Thomas a Becket was the archbishop of Canterbury, and in 1170 he was martyred by some knights of the king of England, Henry II, who was overheard complaining about Becket’s loyalty to the church at Rome over his loyalty to his king.
* The host of the tavern or innkeeper is the man who suggests that the pilgrims each tell a story on the way to entertain the group. Chaucer intended for each to tell 2 stories, but he only got to write one apiece.
* *The Canterbury Tales* are called a **frame story**, meaning that there are many stories “framed” in the larger story of the pilgrimage to Canterbury. They are stories within a story. Many think that he was inspired to write this after reading another frame story called *The Decameron* by Giovanni Boccaccio.
* Chaucer had twenty-nine characters to introduce, so he couldn’t develop any one character at great length. Instead, he provided a few well-chosen details that would make each character stand out vividly.
* Chaucer uses **indirect characterization** when he tells how each character:

Looks and Dresses / Speaks and Acts / Thinks and Feels

* Chaucer also uses **direct characterization,** when he comes right out and tells us what a character’s nature is—virtuous, vain, clever, and so on.
* SATIRE

When an author ridicules and exposes the faults of his or her subject

Used in order to provoke change

*The Canterbury Tales* is a very important satire, pointing out the need for change in Medieval beliefs and practices

* Chaucer’s original plan for *The Canterbury Tales* was for each character to tell four tales, two on the way to Canterbury and two on the way back. But, instead of 120 tales, the text ends after twenty-four tales, and the party is still on its way to Canterbury. Chaucer either planned to revise the structure to cap the work at twenty-four tales, or else left it incomplete when he died on October 25, 1400.

(Please do not write on this.)

*CANTERBURY TALES* General Prologue Questions

(**Group 11 will do these**)

1. To whose shrine are the pilgrims going? Why?
2. These pilgrims may be divided into what three groups?
3. Month in which the pilgrimage begins: Why is that month important?
4. Who are the palmers and where do they long to go?
5. Year of the journey:
6. What is the tabard?
7. How many pilgrims are there including the narrator?

*Canterbury Tales* Character Prologue Questions

**Knight (Group 1)**

-To which code does he prescribe?

-What do we learn about his personality?

1. How did the people on the journey regard him?
2. What was HIS reason for going on the journey?

-What statement is Chaucer making about this person/profession?

**Squire (Group 1)**

What is a squire?

-His age:

-How was his dress in contrast to that of his father?

1. What were some of the varied accomplishments expected of a knight-to-be?

-Discuss the line that hints at his interest in the opposite sex

1. His personality traits:
2. What statement is Chaucer making about this person/profession and how the younger generation of his time may not be holding themselves to as high of a standard as the previous generation?

**Yeoman (Group 2)**

1. What was a yeoman / What is his occupation?
2. With whom is he traveling?

-Color of his clothes:

-How might “Peacock-Feathered Arrows” fly?

-Who is St. Christopher?

1. How does the speaker feel about the Yeomen?

**Prioress**/**Nun (Group 2)**

1. What language does she speak?

-Is her pronunciation like that of a native speaker?

-Evidence of her meticulous manners

1. How does the nun in the prologue differ from your contemporary vision of a nun?

-Jewelry she wears:

1. What is the nun’s motto? What does this say about her?

**Monk (Group 3)**

-Quote the line that suggests the monk is rather lax (lazy) in his religious duties:

1. What is the favorite pastime of Chaucer’s monk?

-What did St. Benedict say about hunters?

1. What is the Monk’s attitude regarding study?

-Evidence (2 pieces) of a love of luxury:

1. In what ways does he NOT look like a typical monk?

**Friar (Group 3)**

1. What was a friar’s chief purpose in the church?

-What was the friar’s special talent?

1. Why do people like to confess to him rather that their parish priest?
2. To whom does he seems especially friendly?
3. Feelings about the needy he should be serving?

-Quality of his clothing:

-What kind of penance did the friar offer? What were the conditions he considered when offering the penance?

1. Why do you think that the friar is given a name?

**Merchant (Group 4)**

1. How does his appearance/dress reflect his profession?

-Expert at what?

-One of his main concerns:

1. What is ironic about the merchant?

**Oxford Cleric (Group 4)**

1. What is a cleric?

-Dress and Overall appearance:

-Area of special knowledge:

1. On what does he spend his money?
2. How is his horse like him?
3. What would he gladly do?

**SGt At Law (Group 4)**

-What is St.Paul’s?

1. This lawyer’s area of expertise?

-Rating as an attorney/Judge:

1. How busy is he? Explain what the text says and what this implies about him.

**Franklin (Group 5)**

1. What is a Franklin?
2. How is he like St. Julian? Explain what is would be like to visit his house.

-Who does he resemble?

-Civic position held:

-What is his motto?

**Guildsmen (Group 5)**

1. What are guildsmen?
2. What is a haberdasher?

-How are the guildsmen dressed?

-Their status symbol:

1. Characterize their wives:

**Cook**: (**Group 5)**

1. Rating of this cook:

-Has a special taste or fondness for:

1. Unattractive physical feature:

**Skipper**: (**Group 6**)

-What is a skipper?

-How good a horseman?

-What he knew much about:

1. Treatment of his prisoners:
2. Scam he has going:

**Doctor**: (**Group 6**)

-Rating of a physician:

-Practice of medicine in Middle Ages much dependent on what area of knowledge (aside from the obvious).

1. His scam:

-Kind of diet he followed:

-“He did not read the Bible very much.” What is the implication?

1. Key motivation for the doctor:

**Wife of Bath: (Group 7)**

1. Her profession:
2. Details of her personality”

-Color of choice:

1. Evidence of the importance of men in her life:

-Other details of physical appearance:

-Destination of some of her past journeys:

1. Subject of expertise:

**Parson**: (**Group 7**)

1. What is a parson?
2. Characterize this man:
3. His particular virtues:
4. Image conveyed by his traveling on foot with a stave in his hand:
5. His Favorite proverb:

**Plowman**: (**Group 8**)

-What is a plowman?

-“Brother” of the parson and meaning of the word “Brother”

1. Guiding factor in his life:
2. What qualities make this man genuine?

**Miller**: (**Group 8**)

1. What is a miller?
2. How does he show his strength?
3. Details of his appearance:
4. What kind of stories did he tell?

-“Thumb of Gold” implies what about his character:

-Musical instrument he plays:

-Position in the calvacade/procession on horseback:

**Manciple**: (**Group 9**)

-What is a manciple?

-Men he works for:

-How shrewd is he:

1. What is ironic about the success of the manciple?
2. Meaning of “he could wipe their eye”

**Reeve**: (**Group 9**)

1. What is a reeve?
2. Personality and appearance:

-How good a manager?

-Who feared him?

1. Evidence of his financial success?
2. His hobby:

-His position of the clavacade:

**Summoner**: (**Group 10**)

1. His professional duty:
2. Details of his physical appearance:

-What foods he was fond of:

-Rate his knowledge of Latin:

-Who feared him?

-How are we to take “you’d meet none better if you went to find one”?

1. What statement is Chaucer making about this person/profession? Explain.

**Pardoner**: (**Group 10**)

1. His duty:

-Partner on their journey:

-Where he had recently been:

1. Relics he carries:
2. What/when he sings best:

-Kind of salary he earns:

1. What statement is Chaucer making about this person/profession?

**Host**: (**Group 11**)

1. His role on the journey:
2. His suggestions:
3. Criteria for judging the best:
4. Prize for the best:
5. Reporting philosophy (how the person who goes first is chosen):

**Post Reading**: (**Discussion only)**

1. Which member of the church does Chaucer speak well of? What commentary is he making about the overall church with this prologue? Explain.
2. When Chaucer discusses the knight in such a positive way, what comment might he be saying about the knights of his time period who didn’t behave with the true code of chivalry?
3. If we were to write modern day Canterbury Tales, who would we choose to go on the trip and where would they go visit?