Medieval England and *The Canterbury Tales* Unit
Test Study Guide

Part I: Medieval England, Geoffrey Chaucer, and Iambic Pentameter

- **What to study:**
  - Medieval England PowerPoint
  - Archetype Handout
  - Author Study: Geoffrey Chaucer Handout
  - Iambic Pentameter (Poetry in *The Canterbury Tales* Handout)

- **Questions # 1-11, multiple choice and one short answer**
- **Sample questions:**
  1. What killed about 1/3 of the population in Medieval England?
  2. In what language were most texts written in Medieval England?
  3. What is an archetype?
  4. What are some examples of archetypes?
  5. In what language did Chaucer write?
  6. What type of meter did Chaucer use?
  7. What is the repetition of a regular rhythmic/rhyme unit in a line of poetry called?
  8. What is an iamb?
  9. How is a stressed syllable marked in iambic pentameter? An unstressed syllable?
  10. What is iambic pentameter?
  11. When every two lines in iambic pentameter rhyme, what is this called?
  12. When lines in iambic pentameter do not rhyme, what is this called?
  13. Practice labeling iambic pentameter.

Part II: *The Canterbury Tales* “The Prologue” and “The Pardoner’s Tale”

- **What to study:**
  - Characterization Handout
  - Moral Tale Handout
  - Types of Tales Handout
  - Tone Handout
  - Chaucer’s Guided Tour of Medieval Life and Literature Handout

- **Questions #12-42, multiple choice and one short answer**
- **Sample questions:**
  - **“The Prologue”**
    1. Give an example of direct characterization from “The Prologue”.
    2. Give an example of indirect characterization from “The Prologue”.
    3. Where were the pilgrims in *The Canterbury Tales* (“The Prologue”) traveling?
    4. List five occupations held by the pilgrims.
    5. Chaucer often used humor and sarcasm to share behaviors that he did not find appropriate. For example, he talks about how much the friar (a priest) likes to drink. List two other pilgrims who do not behave as someone of their position should.
    6. When do the pilgrims begin their journey?
    7. How many stories is each pilgrim supposed to tell?
    8. Where do the pilgrims stay before they start their trip?
    9. With whom does the Knight travel?
“The Pardoner's Tale”
1. What is a moral tale?
2. What is a frame story?
3. What is the theme of “The Pardoner's Tale”?
4. What are three plot events that support the theme of “The Pardoner's Tale”?
5. Which characters support the theme of “The Pardoner's Tale”? Why?
6. The Pardoner is greedy, but his tale warns of the dangers of greed. Which literary term could be applied to this situation?
7. What is the oak tree a symbol of?
8. Why does the Pardoner tell his tale?
9. What happens to the three men who steal the gold?

Types of Tales:
1. Be able to identify/define each of the following types of tales
   - chivalric romance
   - fabliau
   - supernatural
   - sermonizing
   - beast fable
   - saint’s legend
2. Choose one of the six types of tales and explain which of the pilgrims would be likely to tell that type of tale and why.

Part III: Vocabulary
- What to study:
  o Vocab and Words to Know handouts for The Canterbury Tales “The Prologue” and “The Pardoner's Tale”
  o Questions #43-52, multiple choice
  o Sample questions:
    1. When given the definition, you must be able to identify the word

Part IV: Essay
- What to study:
  o Moral Tale handout
  o Question #53, answer in 2 well-developed paragraphs
  o Sample topic:
    1. How do you feel about the theme of “The Pardoner's Tale”? What has happened in your life to make you feel that way? What happens in the story to support the way you feel?