

Name: _____

Miss Skirtich

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English 12: British Literature

The Canterbury Tales GRQs

The Wife of Bath's Tale

1. What does the Wife of Bath think of marriage?
2. How many husbands has the Wife of Bath had?
3. The Wife of Bath talks about Solomon, Abraham, Jacob, and others from the Bible. What is her point?
4. On what commandment does the Wife of Bath like to dwell?
5. What is the Wife of Bath's complaint about husbands?
6. "No empty-handed man can lure a bird," said the Wife of Bath. Explain what she meant and its implications.
7. The Wife of Bath says she was her fourth husband's purgatory. Explain.
8. The Wife's fifth husband beat her. Why did she stay with him?
9. What lies did the Wife of Bath tell Johnny?
10. What book did Johnny like to read?
11. What was the result of the fight between the Wife of Bath and her fifth husband?
12. Why did the Friar promise to tell a tale poking fun at a Summoner?
13. What did the knight do to warrant the punishment of beheading?
14. Who saved the knight, and under what condition was he let go?
15. What deal did he make on his way home after the year was almost ended?
16. What was the answer to the Queen's question?
17. What did the woman ask of the knight in return for saving his life?
18. The knight kept his word and married her, but he was miserable. What options did the old woman give him?
19. What did the knight choose?
20. Why did the old woman promise him both beauty and fidelity?