

Name: _____

Miss Skirtich

English 12: British Literature

5 February 2019

Writing Prompt for *The Miller's Tale*

Title your assignment "Your Last Name- The Miller's Tale WP #1 and upload it on turnitin.com and OneDrive (shared with Miss Skirtich)

Choose one of the following prompts and respond accordingly. Each response should be about a page in length and follow the conventions as listed at the end of this worksheet. Remember to cite the text in proper MLA format (Chaucer page #). Example: "If you will do exactly what I say/And don't start think up some other way" (Chaucer 97). If you have any questions about how to properly format your quote, ask me and I can help you! 😊

1. Pretend that you are Absalon and you are writing a serenade song/poem to win over Alison's heart. You should rhyme your poem/song with heroic couplets, just like Chaucer does in the text. There should be at least 30 lines of text to your poem/song. Incorporate elements about Absalon and Alison in your poem/song.
2. If you were to take on the role of chief editor of a publishing company, you would make changes to a story to make it more appealing to readers. Rewrite the story after Nicholas and Alison kiss and promise to be with each other, but they still have to concoct a plan. What would you have them do instead of telling the far-fetched lie about the coming of Noah's flood? Rewrite the ending of the story so that Nicholas and Alison still get to be with each other, but by a different way. You should include Absalon and John in your story ending somehow.
3. Reflect on how Chaucer paints the Catholic Church in this particular tale. Identify each character and how his or her virtues and vices create a specific picture for readers. What does Chaucer say through these characters about the ecclesiastical class (Church class) and how he satirizes their actions, words, and behaviors in *The Miller's Tale*. Use at least 3 pieces of textual evidence to support your rationale.

Compose your response on a OneDrive document, using the following guidelines to help you compose a great response:

- a. **Use 12pt. Times New Roman font, 1" margins throughout the entire document, double space the body of your paper. The MLA heading is on the top here!**
- b. **When talking about characters, always use PRESENT TENSE instead of past tense. Since characters live on forever in books and plays, we refer to them in present, even if they die in the text.**

Example: When Alison comes to see Nicholas, she **kisses** him because she loves him and not Absalon.

- c. **Only use 3rd person voice when speaking.** This means to never use 1st person or 2nd person POV. That means no **I, you, we, us**. Use **he, she, it, they, the reader** instead.

Example: Instead of "**We** learn about The Miller's drunkenness in the story" say "**The reader** learns about The Miller's drunkenness in the story."

- d. **Limit your use of TO BE verbs.** These verbs are helping verbs that attach themselves to other active verbs and water down the meaning of your sentences. Make your verbs more active and help to illustrate your point by eliminating these pesky words.

Caution: **NEVER** change words inside of quotes. As soon as you do that, it's no longer a quote.

Example: Instead of saying, "Absalon and Alison **are fighting** throughout the story" say instead, "Absalon and Alison **fight** throughout the story."