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English 12: British Literature

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### Writing Prompt for *The Wife of Bath's Tale*

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 the Wife of Bath and you are writing an opinion editorial in the newspaper about how you view men in society. Using at least 3 different pieces of textual evidence, write at least a page explaining your view of how women in society are treated and your personal experience. Explain how Chaucer's portrayal of the Wife of Bath supports and/or refutes the long tradition of misogynistic or anti-feminist literature that presents women as morally corrupt and lustful.
2. Reflect on how Chaucer paints the Catholic Church in this particular tale. What does Chaucer say through the prologue and the tale itself about the character of the Wife of Bath and the ecclesiastical class (Church class) and how he satirizes their actions, words, and behaviors in *The Wife of Bath's Tale*. Write at least one whole page and 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 3<sup>rd</sup> person voice when speaking.** This means to never use 1<sup>st</sup> person or 2<sup>nd</sup> 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."