

1. The Wife of Bath's Tale precedes the Pardoner's Tale. Before we began reading, the wife has made comments about wanting a husband who is a debtor and a slave. With this in mind, why has the Pardoner decided not to get married?
2. What warning does the Wife of Bath give the pilgrims before she begins her tale?
3. Why should women fear the friars who walk the woods?
4. What was the king's original punishment for the knight?
5. What is the second decision the king makes concerning the Knight's crime?
6. What question did the queen want the knight to answer? How can he find the answer?
7. What problem does the knight encounter when he looks for the answer?
8. The Wife gets side tracked with another story. What is this story?
9. In this story, the wife tells a secret to whom?
10. What does the knight see dancing in the woods? Who is in the middle of these dancers?
11. What is the answer to the queen's question?
12. What does the old woman want the knight to do? What is his reaction?
13. What covers the wife's face?
14. The knight's wife lectures him for about 100 lines. What is the point of this lecture?
15. How is poverty "a glass by which to see one's truest friends"?
16. What two choices does the wife say the knight has? What does he decide to do?
17. What happens because of his choice?
18. What's a couplet?
19. What is a half rhyme?
20. What is an approximate rhyme?

Food for thought: How does the Tale of the Wife of Bath connect to her message in her prologue? How does the Tale connect to the portrait of the Wife in the General Prologue? How might her story be a type of wish-fulfillment for the aging? How does the Hag's transformation externally match or mirror an internal transformation of the rapist knight who earlier gave no respect to women's wishes? Answer in 1-3 paragraphs on your own paper.