

***The Prologue to The Canterbury Tales* – TEXT-DEPENDENT QUESTIONS**

1. When does the pilgrimage take place? How does Chaucer describe this time of the year in lines 1-10?
2. Considering the nature of pilgrimages, why is it significant that this journey begins at this time?
3. Chaucer writes that the pilgrims seek the “holy blissful martyr, quick/To give his help to them when they were sick” (17-18). Why are they seeking the martyr? From what you have read about the Middle Ages and pilgrimages, what might be the nature of their sickness?
4. According to the narrator, how many pilgrims came into the Tabard, where he is lodged? He describes these characters as “sundry folk” (line 25). What do you think he means? Why is the fact that they are “sundry folk” important for the frame story?
5. The narrator says that before his story begins, he will tell what the “condition” was of each of the pilgrims as it appeared to him (lines 38-39). What is he proposing to do in his prologue?