**The Middle Ages/*The Canterbury Tales* Test Study Guide**

**Directions:** Answer ALL questions for 10 bonus points added to your test score. Answers DO NOT have to be in complete sentences.

**The Middle Ages**

1. When did the Middle ages occur? (approximate dates)
2. What is feudalism?
3. What is the hierarchy of feudalistic society? (you can draw the pyramid)
4. Describe the principles of courtly love.
5. Why do some consider courtly love to be “antifeminist”?
6. What is chivalry?
7. Who is the author of *The Canterbury Tales*?
8. How long did it take to write *The Canterbury Tales?*
9. What title has been given to Chaucer?
10. What social class developed during the middle ages?
11. What caused 1/3 of England’s population to die during this time?
12. How was it spread?
13. Why was city life so gross at this time?
14. Who is Thomas a Becket?
15. Why did he become a martyr?

***The Canterbury Tales Prologue***

***\*Note: When it says “describe” list one physical trait, most important positive trait, and most important negative trait for EACH character.***

1. Who did the narrator meet at the Tabbard Inn?
2. Why was everyone at the Tabbard?
3. What were they going to Canterbury to see?
4. Describe the Knight.
5. Describe the Squire.
6. Describe the Yeoman.
7. Describe the Prioress.
8. What is a Prioress?
9. Who else was in the Nun’s group?
10. Describe the Monk.
11. Describe the Friar.
12. Describe the Merchant.
13. Describe the Clerk.
14. Describe the Sergeant At Law.
15. Describe the Franklin.
16. What are the individual occupations of the guildsmen?
17. Describe the Cook.
18. Describe the Shipman.
19. Describe the Doctor.
20. Describe the Wife of Bath.
21. Describe the Parson.
22. Describe the Miller.
23. Describe the Manciple.
24. Describe the Plowman.
25. Describe the Reeve.
26. Describe the Pardoner.
27. Describe the Summoner.
28. Describe the Host.
29. What game does the host propose?
30. What is the prize for winning the game?
31. What is the penalty for anyone who doesn’t obey his rules?

***The Wife of Bath’s Tale***

1. When is this tale set? (i.e. during the mythic reign of what king?)
2. According to the Wife of Bath, why can’t people see elves anymore?
3. What does the Wife of Bath mean when she states, “There is no other incubus than he [the friar]”?
4. What crime does the lusty bachelor commit? Why is this particularly awful?
5. What is the initial punishment King Arthur orders for the knight? Who intervenes and requests a special trial?
6. What must the knight do to save his head (i.e. what mission does the court give him)? How long does he have?
7. What problem does the knight run into as he is attempting to complete his mission?
8. What strange sight does the knight see while riding through the forest on his return journey?
9. What does the old woman say she wants in return for providing the answer to the knight’s riddle?
10. What is the Queen and the court’s reaction to the knight’s answer?
11. What are the wedding celebrations like when the knight marries the old woman?
12. What does the old woman teach the young knight about nobility? (i.e. What makes a person “noble” or “gentle” according to her?
13. According to the old woman, what are the advantages of her being poor and ugly?
14. What two options does the old woman present to the knight?
15. Which of these two options does the knight pick? (trick question!)
16. How does the old woman change at the end of the story?