Name\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Period\_\_\_\_

***The Canterbury Tales* Discussion Tasks**

*Brit LitA*

*LT Speaking, Viewing, Listening & Media Lit 11.9.1.1: I can come to discussions prepared, explicitly draw on my preparation to cite evidence from texts, and work together with others to build on their ideas and express my own.*

**Directions**: With your group, find evidence from the text and your guides/notes to facilitate your discussion on one of the following.

1. **On Trial**. You are members of a jury commissioned to pass judgment on the characters in *The Canterbury Tales*. Specifically, you must decide the fate of the Wife of Bath, the Pardoner, and/or the knight from “The Wife of Bath’s Tale” who are put on trial for their crimes. First, select which characters you want to try (depending on time, you may do two or all three). Establish what their crimes are, what witnesses might be called, how they would defend themselves, and what the prosecution would say. Come to an agreement on a verdict with informed reasoning and a justified punishment or acquittal. Be sure to base your witnesses, accusations, defenses, and reasoning on textual evidence.
2. **Winner, Winner…** You are a mixed panel of judges called in by Chaucer to replace the Host as judge of the storytelling competition. Who told the better tale? What makes a good story? As a group, establish specific criteria you will use to determine which pilgrim—the Pardoner or the Wife of Bath—has told the better tale. Weigh both the “Pardoner’s Tale” and “Wife’s Tale” as possible winners. Be sure to also include solid evidence from the book to back up your reasoning. Come to a consensus as a group and a clear winner based on your criteria.
3. **The Ladder**. You are the official determiners of social status in Chaucer’s medieval era. What determines a person’s social class? What makes someone “low” or “high” class? What do we already know about hierarchy from the medieval times? Your task is to list the specific criteria that make up a person’s social class. Then, based on your criteria, place at least ten pilgrims from Chaucer’s “Prologue” on various rungs of the social class ladder. Who has power based on his/her class in the 1300s and who doesn’t? Why? Be sure your justification for the pilgrim’s rank is based on textual evidence.

***The Canterbury Tales* Exam Study Guide**

**Part I: Matching** (15 pts).

Wife of Bath Friar Cook Plowman

Miller Nun Reeve Knight

Summoner Yeoman Merchant Franklin

Oxford Cleric Squire Pardoner Doctor

Monk Host Parson Skipper

**Part II. Multiple Choice** (20 pts).

Notes on Chaucer Seven deadly sins “Pardoner’s Tale”

Frame story “Prologue” characters “Wife of Bath’s Prologue & Tale”

**Part III. Quotes** (6 pts). Answer the question that accompanies the quote.

“Prologue” “Pardoner’s Tale” “Wife of Bath’s Tale”

**Part IV. Short Answer** (14 pts).

Hypocrisy/contradictions “Pardoner” and “Wife” tales’ plots fairytales social class

Seven deadly sins Allegory gender

**Part V. Essay** (10 pts). Select one of two.

Themes “Prologue” “Pardoner” “Wife”