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

**Canterbury Tales “Wife of Bath” Extension**

*Brit LitA*

Find textual evidence (lines + numbers) that support your following responses.

1. To what extent does the Wife's tale seem appropriate to her character as it has been depicted?
2. Does the tale reveal new or unexpected aspects of her character? Does it illuminate any of the very different relationships that she has experienced in marriage?
3. The moral of the story seems to confirm her argument in the “Prologue” that wives should have authority over their husbands, but the proof of the moral seems to come through magic. Are we to take the story at face value, or is it, in the truest sense, a “fairy tale”? How does this reflect on the Wife’s character and opinions?
4. Does Chaucer in this way represent the Wife as seeing herself as the “ugly lady” waiting for some loving husband to unlock the beauty inside her? Why or why not?

**Webquest**

Choose **ONE** of the following to complete as an analytical extension.

**OPTION A. Letter:** “The Goodman of Paris” is a letter written between 1392 and 1394 by an elderly Parisian merchant for his new, fifteen-year-old wife. Read the bulk of the letter (found on Ms. VH’s website as a link or as a document), and answer the following on a separate sheet of loose leaf paper.

1. What **advice** does the Goodman of Paris give his young fifteen-year-old wife?
2. How is the Goodman of Paris’ advice **similar** to or **different** from the Wife of Bath’s?
3. How is the recommended behavior of the young wife different from the Wife of Bath’s **behavior**?
4. Would the Wife of Bath have made a **suitable mate** for the Goodman of Paris? Why or why not?

**OPTION B. Scholarly Article**

Find a scholarly, lengthy article (multiple pages; otherwise, multiple articles) on EBSCOHost (STMA Media Center sites) or Google Scholar that analyzes the “Wife of Bath” and/or her “Tale.” (Consider searching key words with “wife of bath,” such as “feminist,” “gender,” “church,” or “authority” to find a quality article that interests you.) Complete the following on a separate loose leaf sheet.

1. Read it carefully. It’s okay to re-read parts or look up unfamiliar terminology.
2. What **surprised** you?
3. Provide a **summary** of the article. (You may not use the abstract as the summary.)
4. Do you agree or disagree with the author’s **thesis**? Why or why not? (This should be your longest, most detailed answer.)