***The Canterbury Tales***

**Pilgrims:**

As we begin reading the prologue, look for examples of satire. Think about the types of people that would most likely be making a pilgrimage to the shrine of a religious martyr – the shrine of a man who stood up for the church, even though it meant going against the will of the king. As we read, decide whether or not the pilgrims meet your expectations of such people. Our narrator will be commenting on the physical description, occupation, virtues/accomplishments, vices, reasons for the pilgrimage, and/or attitudes of these pilgrims. Pay close attention to these facts and the ways in which our narrator chooses to reveal/describe them.

**Directions for Reading:**

1. Before reading, we will complete the in-class reflection activity (attached). Be prepared to share your observations with your classmates!
2. We will be reading *The Canterbury Tales* as a class, but before we do that, you are going to have the chance to work in small groups to get to know some of these pilgrims on a more personal level. Each group (3-4 students) will be responsible for 2-3 pilgrims. I will also assign these. Your responsibilities are as follows:
   1. **Read** your pilgrims’ descriptions. As you read, try to visualize them through the eyes of our narrator, the Host. Remember that what you are reading is his initial judgment of these people. Which characteristics does he seem to emphasize the most? Does he appear to be making fun of the pilgrims? If so, in what ways? Does he seem to like or dislike them? Approve or disapprove? These are some things to think about as you read.
   2. Once you have thought about/decided what the Host is trying to tell us, the readers, about your pilgrims, your job will be to **rewrite each pilgrim’s description using a modern style.** Do not take away from or change the original content of the description, but feel free to change the style, language (you may use slang), etc. You do not have to use the same (or any!) rhyme scheme – I’ll leave that up to you. Make sure, however, that you write your descriptions in third person point of view. I will be sharing an example of a modern description with you.
   3. After you finish writing your modern version of your pilgrims’ descriptions, you will also need to **create a visual representation for each one**. You will need to either draw a picture or make a collage (at least four pictures) to represent the Host’s descriptions. These visuals will help to further your classmates’ understanding of your group’s pilgrims.
   4. You will also need to **find a modern visual representation for each of your pilgrims.** This must be either a celebrity or a character from a book or movie with which the majority of the class would be familiar.
   5. When you have completed all the steps above, place your rewrite and visual representations on a piece of poster board (1/2 a piece for each pilgrim should be sufficient). Discuss with the members of your group how you would like to present to the class, and then prepare to introduce your pilgrims to the class as we read!

**In-Class Reflection/Observation Activity**

In a few minutes, we will be looking at pictures of various types of people in today’s society. As we look at these pictures, your job will be to assess and determine what types of people they might be and what their occupations/roles in society might be, simply by judging upon their appearances and your initial impressions of them. Even though we may not talk about it often, it is human nature to watch and observe people and to form immediate opinions or judgments on them. We all do it! In The Canterbury Tales, the Host of the Tabard Inn, our narrator for the prologue, is most definitely an expert at people-watching and characterizing. In fact, the prologue is all about his initial impressions/judgments of twenty-three different people. Before we get to that, however, it’s time for you to practice your own observational skills!

**Directions:** On a separate sheet of paper, you will number 1-3 for each picture and respond to the following in complete sentences:

1. What is your first and immediate impression of the person/people in this picture? Try not to be too harsh!
2. If you had to guess, what is the occupation of the person/ people in the picture?
3. In what setting/ “hangout” would you typically find the person/people in the picture?

**Pilgrims:**

Group 1: Knight, Squire, Yeoman (attendant in a noble household) (pp. 114-116)

Group 2: Nun, Monk, Friar (pp. 116-120)

Group 3: Merchant, Oxford Cleric (student preparing for career with clergy),

Sergeant at the Law (pp. 120-121)

Group 4: Franklin (wealthy landowner), Guildsmen (haberdasher, dyer, carpenter,

weaver, carpet-maker), Skipper (pp. 122-123)

Group 5: Doctor, Wife of Bath, Parson (pp. 124-127)

Group 6: Plowman, Miller (one who grinds grain), Manciple (servant in charge of

purchasing food) (pp. 127-128)

Group 7: Reeve (estate manager), Summoner (pp. 128-130)

Group 8: Pardoner, Host (pp. 131-134)