

The Pardoner's Prologue and Tale:

(a) The Prologue

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☞ refers to links on www.crossref-it.info

- ❖ **Lesson focus:** To consider how the Host's words, and the Pardoner's *Prologue*, prepare us for the *Tale* itself.
- ❖ **Opening exercise:** Read through the linking section, and find as many links into the *Pardoner's Tale* as you can. For example:
 - Blasphemy
 - Corruption
 - Show/appearance
 - What might lead to death
 - Drink.(☞ *The Pardoner's Prologue* and *Tale* synopses and commentary > I.1-40: The link between *The Physician's Tale* and *The Pardoner's Prologue*)
(☞ Narrative - framing devices in *The Pardoner's Tale* > The narrative function of the Host)
- ❖ **Textual examination:** Read *The Pardoner's Prologue*. Students should list five things that the Pardoner admits to
 - Put students into pairs
 - Compare, then rank these five things into order from what you consider to be the worst to the least bad
 - Discuss different versions, considering both medieval and modern views.
(☞ Synopses and commentary > *The Pardoner's Prologue*)
- ❖ **Discussion ideas:** Why does the Pardoner admit to so much?
 - Is he drunk and showing off?
 - Does he think that it doesn't matter because the pilgrims are not his real victims?
 - Is he so arrogant that he thinks that he can still get away with it?➤ Find any evidence to support these alternatives.
- ❖ **Recreative task:** Compose a modern day 'confession' for one of:
 - A politician
 - A salesman
 - The owner of a dating agency
 - A businessman / woman➤ If possible, use rhyming couplets.
(☞ Synopses and commentary > *The Pardoner's Prologue* > The rhythm of *The Pardoner's Prologue*)
- ❖ **Critical task:** Provide stage directions at appropriate points in *The Pardoner's Prologue*
 - Include tone of voice, gestures, movements (including possible approaches to other pilgrims, etc.)
 - If possible, try acting some out
 - Has Chaucer provided any clues to help in this task?
(☞ Synopses and commentary > *The Pardoner's Prologue* - I.101-138)
(☞ Imagery and symbolism in *The Pardoner's Prologue* and *Tale* > The smooth preacher / salesman)
- ❖ **Extension task:** Read *The Physician's Tale* (in modern English, probably)
 - Decide why Chaucer has set this *Tale* immediately before *The Pardoner's Tale*.
(☞ Synopses and commentary > I.1-40: The link between *The Physician's Tale* and *The Pardoner's Prologue*)