






The Pardoner's Prologue and Tale:

(b) The characters in the Tale

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 refers to links on www.crossref-it.info

- ❖ **Lesson focus:** To explore the characters that appear in the text and how Chaucer uses them in *The Pardoner's Tale*.
- ❖ **Opening exercise:** Provide a pile of newspapers and magazines
 - Students search through for pictures, headlines, or even stories which link to the three rioters or the Old Man
 - A collage-style poster (or posters) could be produced, and discussion of the links and interpretations will follow.
- ❖ **Discussion ideas:** List the details of physical description which are given of the Old Man
 - Add these as labels to a basic outline of a man on the board, or to the pictures produced in the previous exercise
 - How realistic is this character?
 - Add any clues which suggest his mysterious quality.
 - ( Synopses and commentary > *The Pardoner's Tale* l.423-479: The rioters meet an Old Man)
 - ( Characterisation in *The Pardoner's Prologue and Tale* > The Old Man)
- ❖ **Textual examination:** Look at the sections which involve the three rioters
 - Look at the following sections:
 - Synopses and commentary > *The Pardoner's Tale*
 - l. 175-194
 - l. 480-517
 - l. 518-562
 - l. 563-606
- Each student should decide on three quotations (about a line in length each) which they consider to be most significant in assessing the three rioters
- Compare and discuss their decisions.
- ❖ **Recreative task:** Provide an epilogue to the story as the Old Man might speak it
 - Ideally, this should be in Chaucerian couplets!
- ❖ **Critical task:** Organise students into three groups. Range two of the groups against each other to debate the following:
 - How convincing are the characters in this Tale for a modern reader?
- The third group needs to take note of the outcomes and address this question:
 - On what level do they work for the reader?
- Students can use their preparation to write an essay
 - ( Synopses and commentary > Final link passage l.607-680: Reaction)
 - ( Critical approaches to *The Pardoner's Prologue and Tale* > Approaches in the last thirty years)
- ❖ **Extension task:** Research medieval views of the Seven Deadly Sins
 - How many of these are referred to in *The Pardoner's Tale*?
 - ( The context of *The Pardoner's Prologue and Tale* > Religious / philosophical context > Medieval beliefs about sin and forgiveness)