

GRAPHIC ORGANIZER FOR ACTIVE READING

from The Wife of Bath's Tale, from The Canterbury Tales

Geoffrey Chaucer, translated by Nevill Coghill

Pupil's Edition page 138

From Sketch to Portrait

We get to know fictional characters in the same way we usually learn about real people—gradually. In “The Prologue,” you were briefly introduced to the Wife of Bath. After reading her tale, you know her better. In the chart below, summarize your more thorough knowledge of the Wife of Bath by listing her strengths and weaknesses as well as your general observations of her. In the blank area at the bottom of each list, you might want to sketch an example from that list.

General Observations	Strengths	Weaknesses

1. Which of the Wife of Bath's traits do you most like or dislike? Why?

2. In your opinion, how do the other pilgrims feel about the Wife of Bath? Choose one pilgrim and describe what you think his or her reaction to the Wife of Bath and her tale would be.

from The Wife of Bath's Tale

Circle the letter next to the word or group of words that belongs in each space.

With twenty-nine pilgrims to introduce, Chaucer could not 1 develop any character. 2 had to find a few well-chosen details to make immediate impressions. For example, although he devotes only nine lines to the Cook, one now-famous image 3 the Cook and his unfortunate appearance: The Cook has “an ulcer on his knee,” a festering, open sore. How does this detail make 4 feel about the Cook?

- 1 A thoroughly
B thorough
C most thorough
D more thorough

- 2 F Him
G They
H He
J His

- 3 A immortalize
B had immortalize
C immortalizes
D has immortalize

- 4 F her
G you
H it
J they

WORDS TO OWN

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Making Meanings with Synonyms

Use a dictionary or a thesaurus to look up each Word to Own below. Find a synonym and write it under the Word to Own. Then, on the lines provided, use the synonym in a sentence that contains clues which make the synonym's meaning clear.

EXAMPLE: sauntered: The Pardoner strolled leisurely down the street, calling people to look at
strolled his wares.

Synonym	Sentence
1. bequest: _____	_____
2. prowess: _____	_____
3. lineage: _____	_____
4. pestilence: _____	_____
5. concede: _____	_____
6. implored: _____	_____
7. extort: _____	_____
8. void: _____	_____
9. temporal: _____	_____
10. suffices: _____	_____