

## Pardoner's Tale

### Multiple Choice

Identify the letter of the choice that best completes the statement or answers the question.

### Comprehension

The questions below refer to the selection "from *The Pardoner's Tale*."

- \_\_\_\_\_ 1. A Pardoner is an official of the —  
a. king  
b. church  
c. local government  
d. feudal manor
- \_\_\_\_\_ 2. The Pardoner earns money from all of the following activities *except* —  
a. preaching against greed  
b. begging from church to church  
c. selling relics and papal pardons  
d. making and selling baskets
- \_\_\_\_\_ 3. The stories about Death that the servant boy and the tavern-knave tell suggest that —  
a. death from violence and plague is rampant  
b. Death will be hard to find  
c. people are dying of plague  
d. people looked forward to death
- \_\_\_\_\_ 4. The rioters go looking for Death because they —  
a. want to repent of their sins and find salvation  
b. plan to avenge the deaths of their friends  
c. know he has great treasure  
d. want to banish him from England
- \_\_\_\_\_ 5. In "The Pardoner's Tale," Death is portrayed as —  
a. both the price of wickedness and an actual person  
b. both a skeletal figure and an evil angel  
c. an old man selling wares by the side of the road  
d. an archangel who kills people through natural disaster and war
- \_\_\_\_\_ 6. The character who prevents a fight between the Pardoner and the Host is the —  
a. Squire  
b. Knight  
c. Monk  
d. Oxford Clerk
- \_\_\_\_\_ 7. Which of the following statements *best* describes the end of the tale?  
a. The rioters become rich.  
b. The rioters meet death.  
c. Death takes the gold florins.  
d. Death takes a holiday.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 8. The Pardoner's pious story along with his desire to obtain gold and money reveals his —  
a. honesty  
b. ignorance  
c. sensitivity  
d. immorality
- \_\_\_\_\_ 9. After telling his tale, what does the Pardoner offer to do for his fellow pilgrims?  
a. Buy them a round of drinks  
b. Explain the moral of the tale  
c. Sell them relics and pardons  
d. Pray for their souls
- \_\_\_\_\_ 10. Which of the following words *best* describes the Pardoner's treatment of the Host?  
a. angry  
b. generous  
c. uneducated  
d. mocking
- \_\_\_\_\_ 11. The old man tells the rioters that they will find Death under the tree. There they find  
a. poisoned wine  
b. a black cloaked figure  
c. gold  
d. an empty coffin
- \_\_\_\_\_ 12. The rioters decide to wait until night to move the moeny because

- a. they don't think they can carry it all      c. they don't want anyone to see them with it and ask questions
- b. they need to make sure nobody claims it      d. they don't want to get hot and sweaty
- \_\_\_\_\_ 13. The two older rioters conspire against the younger by pretending to
- a. accidentally kill him in a wrestling game      c. poisoning his wine
- b. forget they sent him to the store      d. turning him in to the authorities
- \_\_\_\_\_ 14. After the rioters abandon their search for Death, they murder one another. This act is an example of —
- a. irony      c. imagery
- b. metaphor      d. personification
- \_\_\_\_\_ 15. It is ironic that the Pardoner preaches against avarice, meaning loving money,, because he is —
- a. especially greedy      c. a friend of the Summoner's
- b. a pious man      d. rude to the Host
- \_\_\_\_\_ 16. What is ironic about the attitude that the old man has toward Death?
- a. Most people seek to avoid death, but the old man looks for it.
- b. He has seen death more than once.
- c. He refers to his grave as his "mother."
- d. Most people refer to death as an event not a person.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 17. The pardoner preaches against these three sins:
- a. gluttony, gambling and swearing      c. lying, adultery, and idolatry
- b. rape, murder, stealing      d. greed, pride and vandalism
- \_\_\_\_\_ 18. He preaches against these sins because
- a. most people do not commit them, making them among the worst      c. they were relatively new and unknown sins
- b. most people commit them, making them very common      d. they were rarely preached about at all
- \_\_\_\_\_ 19. The old man wishes that somebody could
- a. kill him immediately      c. exchange their youth for his old age
- b. help him find his way home      d. teach him how to find Death

### Short Answer

### Constructed Response

*The question below refers to the selection "from The Pardoner's Tales."*

20. What are three valid morals that you find in "The Pardoner's Tale"—in other words, what messages or ideas in it still apply *best* to life today? list three.

## **Pardoner's Tale Answer Section**

### **MULTIPLE CHOICE**

1. ANS: B
2. ANS: D
3. ANS: A
4. ANS: B
5. ANS: A
6. ANS: B
7. ANS: B
8. ANS: D
9. ANS: C
10. ANS: A
11. ANS: C
12. ANS: C
13. ANS: A
14. ANS: A
15. ANS: A
16. ANS: A
17. ANS: A
18. ANS: B
19. ANS: C

### **SHORT ANSWER**

20. ANS:  
*Students' responses will vary. A sample response follows:*

The moral I find in "The Pardoner's Tale" that is most applicable today is that even sinners desire forgiveness and wish to lead better lives. This lesson is shown in the ironic contrast between the tale the Pardoner tells and the way he lives his life. His tale condemns greed; his life exemplifies greed. But it should not be inferred from this contradiction that the Pardoner disdains the moral lesson he is telling. He may accept it as a matter of religious doctrine and psychological truth, yet knows that he is unable to live up to it. He hides his despair behind a pose of worldly disrespect for goodness. The ultimate irony is that the Pardoner would secretly wish to be sincere—to live up to the moral of the tale that he seems to be mocking.