

Wife of Bath

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 Wife of Bath's Tale*."

- _____ 1. The knight undertakes a quest to —
- discover the most beautiful noblewoman in England
 - find a perfect wife for himself
 - learn what it is that women want most
 - protect women from evil upon the road to Canterbury
- _____ 2. The knight's quest is a(n) —
- task given to him by the queen
 - test of courage set by the king
 - ambitious mission he sets himself
 - duty imposed on him by the church
- _____ 3. Before he sees the old woman in the woods, the knight sees —
- the figure of Death
 - more than twenty-four ladies dancing
 - his own face reflected in a pool of water
 - his own future in a dream
- _____ 4. According to the old woman, what women really want is —
- money, jewels, and treasure
 - to be flattered and attended to
 - freedom and entertainment
 - mastery over their husbands
- _____ 5. As a reward for giving him the answer that will save his life, the old woman demands —
- a large sum of money
 - to learn the secret of youth
 - to marry the knight
 - to be pardoned by the queen
- _____ 6. The knight shows that he has learned what women want most when he —
- keeps his promise to return after a year and a day
 - agrees to marry the old woman
 - pays the old woman as much as she asks
 - asks his wife to decide which form she will take
- _____ 7. The old woman makes an eloquent philosophical argument to the knight on their wedding night about —
- the harmfulness of greed
 - the fault of judging a person based on looks and money
 - the differences between men and women
 - the magical beauty of nature
- _____ 8. The Wife of Bath's philosophy of marriage (having been married five times for money) shows that she —
- is a strong person with a keen sense of her own rights
 - tends to say one thing and do the opposite
 - cares only for pleasure, not for right and wrong
 - trusts too much to thought instead of feeling
- _____ 9. Who narrates the tale about the knight and the old woman?
- The knight
 - The old woman
 - The Wife of Bath
 - Chaucer
- _____ 10. The knight in the story is referred to as a "rogue" knight because he
- commits a terrible crime
 - has fallen from the standards of the Round Table

- b. no longer follows the laws of chivalry and courtly love d. all of the above
- _____ 11. What choice(s) does the old woman give the knight?
 a. for her to remain old and ugly but faithful c. both a and b
 b. for her to become beautiful but unfaithful d. neither a nor b
- _____ 12. The Wife's tale is known as a transformed hag tale - in which a woman can manipulate her form to trick men. The character(s) that represents the transformed hag is
 a. Queen c. dancing ladies
 b. maiden d. the knight
- _____ 13. The knight has a hard time initially answering his given question because
 a. he cannot find any women to ask c. he is in jail
 b. women all give him different answers d. he has been banished, so he doesn't understand the language
- _____ 14. What does the knight do that proves the answer to the question he sought to discover at the beginning of the tale.
 a. He lets his wife make the choice for him c. He apologizes to the maiden
 b. He loves his wife even though she is ugly and old. d. He voluntarily spends a year in jail.
- _____ 15. The Wife of Bath's opinions suggest that she may be described by all the following words *except* —
 a. well-read c. modest
 b. humorous d. bossy
- _____ 16. Which adjective does *not* describe the Wife of Bath's narrative voice?
 a. mournful c. lively
 b. witty d. earthy
- _____ 17. The **narrator** of a story should *not* be confused with —
 a. the author c. one of the minor characters
 b. the main character d. the storytelling voice

Short Answer

Constructed Response

The question below refers to the selection "from The Wife of Bath's Tale."

18. Based on "The Wife of Bath's Tale," what views do the society of the Middle Ages have of women. You may bullet your answers and give at least three views.

Wife of Bath Answer Section

MULTIPLE CHOICE

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

SHORT ANSWER

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

Based on “The Wife of Bath’s Tale,” Chaucer’s view of life is good-humored and expansive, forgiving of human frailty and hopeful of human improvement. It is a view of life that applauds virtue, fairness, decency, and generosity wherever such qualities are found, whether in nobles or commoners. Despite Chaucer’s high position in life, he is not taken in by the superficial virtues of wealth or nobility; he knows that true wealth and nobility are in the heart. So far, Chaucer’s views as stated here are very similar to those of the Wife of Bath, who is, after all, Chaucer’s creation. The Wife’s long speech about virtue sounds sincere; it’s hard to imagine the author not agreeing with it. Chaucer probably does not share the Wife’s view of marriage, however. She views it as a contest for power in which the wife is the rightful winner. Chaucer, being male, would probably not hold that view, but he gives his female characters—the Wife of Bath, the queen, and the old woman—such strength of character that it is equally hard to imagine him thinking that their husbands should be their masters. Chaucer’s view is more likely shown in the outcome of the tale, when both spouses show each other their *best* qualities and learn from them.