

Name(s) _____

Date _____

Period _____

A Modern Canterbury Tale

Directions: Chaucer's characters in the *Canterbury Tales* are the kinds of people he would have known in real life and observed riding toward Canterbury on the old pilgrimage road. Your group's task is to think of people who would go on a modern "pilgrimage" and introduce them like Chaucer introduces his characters in the Prologue.

1. **Prewriting.** Reread Chaucer's description of the Miller. Highlight, using different colors, where Chaucer describes his physiognomy, clothing, and personality. Then consider the following questions:

- a. How does the Miller's physical description help you to understand what's he's like?

- b. How does the description of his clothing help you understand his character?

2. Brainstorm places where people travel. Think of tourist spots, landmarks, or events people would attend. Create a list of at least 10.

3. Decide where, from the above list, you would like your pilgrims to go.

4. Who will be going? Think about the types of people who would want to go there. You must have at least three pilgrims. Just as Chaucer chose people from every walk of life, make sure your pilgrims are diverse.

	Pilgrim 1	Pilgrim 2	Pilgrim 3
Role/Position in Society			
Physical Description			
Personality			
Do you like this person? Why?			

5. Write your introduction for each character in verse. Remember, Chaucer wrote in rhymed couplets. Each introduction should be *at least* 10 lines. You will also draw your character as you describe them.