**“The Pardoner’s Tale”**

**The Pardoner’s Prologue**

1. What additional character traits are revealed about the Pardoner in his prologue? List an example from the text and state what we learn from it.

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| **Example** | **Conclusion** |
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1. What does the Pardoner state is the purpose of his tale?
2. Define allegory:

**“The Pardoner’s Tale”**

4. “The Pardoner’s Tale” is an incomplete sermon and an example of a morality tale. A medieval sermon contains six parts:

1. statement of theme or text
2. protheme, introduced directly from the four gospels
3. dilation, expansion of the Biblical text
4. exemplum, a story illustrating the point
5. peroration, the application or eloquent haranguing

f. benediction, the closing formula

Because it is an incomplete sermon, “The Pardoner’s Tale” only contains parts a, d, e, and f. Find each part and write the line numbers and a summary.

a.

d.

e.

f.

1. Since “The Pardoner’s Tale” is meant to teach a religious lesson, it focuses on two of the Seven Deadly Sins. Circle the two discussed in the tale and briefly explain how they are evident.

a. Pride  
b. Envy  
c. Gluttony d. Lust  
e. Anger  
f. Greed g. Sloth

1. Which of the sins does the Pardoner violate? Explain.
2. What is the plot of the tale? What does it exemplify, if anything?
3. “The Pardoner’s Tale” is an example of a morality tale, which means it teaches a moral value. What is the moral of this tale? How is this ironic?
4. The Pardoner claims he can help free people of avarice despite his own sin. Is this valid in any way? Are there layers of irony here?

10.How is the figure of Death portrayed in the tale? Why do the 3 rioters seek death?

11.What do the 3 find instead of the figure of Death?

12.What is the significance of the old man lamenting his inability to die? Does this reveal anything about the Pardoner, and if it does, do you think he realizes what he may have revealed about his own moral condition?

13.What does the Pardoner do immediately after he finishes his tale? To whom is he speaking?

14.What was the Pardoner’s intent with this tale? Was he successful? Why or why not?

15.Explain how “The Pardoner’s Tale” is an allegory.

**Video Clip (on website, under instructions and this doc)**

Now let’s watch the video clip of “The Pardoner’s Tale.” As you are watching the clip, pay particular attention to the images of death within the film. List them below.

Additionally, describe the reaction of the other pilgrims to the Pardoner’s tale.

Describe the reaction of individuals not among the group.