

Creative Writing Assignment # 1
ENGL 020.301

Due Tues. October 17th
Sarah Wilma Watson

5pts – This assignment will count for 5% of your final grade

Write a character portrait in the style of the “General Prologue” from the *Canterbury Tales*

A. Look back at the two prologue portraits we considered in class - the Wife of Bath (lines 447-478), and the Miller (lines 547-568). Feel free to read the portrait of the Clerk (lines 287- 310) for an additional example. What details are included in a pilgrim portrait? What is the formula that Chaucer uses to depict his characters? To answer these questions, you may wish to re-read these passages and/or consult your notes from class.

B. Imagine that you are preparing to write “The Campus Canterbury Tales.” Write a portrait of a “character” that you might see walking around on campus (see list below for ideas). Your write-up should be about 200-400 words (about the length of Chaucer’s portraits) and you may choose to write in verse or in prose. You may alternatively prepare a drawing or cartoon of your character accompanied by a short written explanations (about 100 words). You may wish to brainstorm a list of features for your character before writing out the portrait. Feel free to create a character not found on the list.

- The Frat Boy
- The Sorority Girl
- The Professor
- The Jock
- The Class President
- The University President
- The Librarian
- The RA
- The Business School Student
- The English Major
- The Acapella Singer