Chaucer’s Canterbury Tales Prologue
Character Portrait Presentations
The Knight

1.) “Most distinguished man” (43)
   - He is a successful man that many look up to.

2.) “truth, honor, generousness, courtesy” (47)
   - The knight shows all the traits of a hero figure and is very noble.

Blake Armstrong & Lizzy Hendrix
3.) “done nobly his king’s war” (47)
   - This proves that he is indeed noble and great in both the king’s eyes and in the eyes of the community

4.) “a perfect gentle-knight” (70)
   - He was true and not faulty. He was gentle in ways with the community, but a fierce warrior when protecting.

5.) “He was of sovereign value in all eyes” (60)
   - He was powerful, and people looked up to him.
“With locks as curly as if they had been pressed./He was some twenty years of age, I guessed”(83-84).

- The Squire was a handsome young man.

“He’d seen some service with the cavalry/In Flanders and Artois and Picardy”(87-88).

- He has seen war at his young age.

“And had done valiantly in little space /Of time, in hope to win his lady’s grace”(89-91).

- He had actually joined his father in battles to look good to the ladies.
“He was embroidered like a meadow bright/ And full of freshest flowers, red and white./ Singing he was, or fluting all day”(91-93).

- He was a happy-go-lucky type of person, spending his time playing and having a good time.

“He knew the way to sit a horse and ride./ He could make songs and poems and recite,/ knew how to joust and dance, to draw and write”(96-98).

- he is well educated in several things and clearly had money.

“He loved so hotly that till dawn grew pale/ he slept as little as a nightingale”(99-100)

- he got the ladies.
The Canterbury Tales
Yeoman

Amber Smith & Matthew Hawkins
The yeoman was very prepared for battle because, “he bore a mighty bow” (110) and “a shield and sword hung at one side.” (114-115)
He was tanned and wrinkled from working in the sun, Geoffrey says, “his head was like a nut / his face was brown” (111).

Geoffrey shows that he is a forester with his, “medal of St. Christopher,” (117) and his, “hunting-horn, well slung and burnished clean” (119).
Characterization/Key ideas

- well equipped
- Neat & organized
- Forester
- Spends most time outdoors
- Meant for protection
The Nun of The Canterbury Tales

Christa Martin, Lauren Jones, Garrett Davison, Bryson Speer
Textual Evidence

- “Her way of smiling very simple and coy” (123).

- “She was so charitably solicitous” (147).

- “French in the Paris style she did not know” (130).

Interpretation

- The nun is described as shy and pleasant.

- She had a tender heart and was concerned about the well-being of animals.

- She was speaking in a different style of French then she knew because she was trying to play the part.
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<th>Textual evidence</th>
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<td>“To counterfeit a courtly kind of grace” (143).</td>
<td>She wanted to be known as high class, but really she is faking.</td>
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<td>“Her forehead, certainly, was fair of spread” (158).</td>
<td>She was considered very beautiful in Medieval times.</td>
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Conclusion

Madam Eglantyne was a very shy and well mannered nun. She spoke like she was from a higher class but the way she spoke and behaved was all an act to fit in with the upper class. Madam Eglantyne was a member of the aristocracy because of her status as a nun, but she was not born into it. She was possibly more concerned with the well being of animals than that of her fellow people. She also uses her faith and prayer instead of fighting or manual labor in her life.
Monk

Jennifer Medellin, Jonathan Cox
“Where my lord Monk was Prior of the cell” (176). He was a religious man. Monk was the head of a subordinate monastery.

“This Monk was therefore a good man to horse…” (193). He was good to his pets.

“He was not pale like a tormented soul” (209). Monk spent time outside that gave him an effect of being dark complected.
“His prominent eyeballs never seemed to settle” (205). He was very aware of his surroundings.

“He was a fat and personable priest” (204). Monk had a memorable personality.

“His views were sound” (187)

Monk was wealthy and a religious man.
The Canterbury Tales: The Friar

By: Baylie Lindsey and Rhylee Meneses
About Friar

“There was a Friar, a wanton one and merry” (Line 212)

   The Friar is a lively man who is full of energy.

“He’d fixed up many a marriage, giving each/ Of his young women what he could afford her” (Line 216-217)

   He is married to many young women.

“He was an easy man in penance-giving/ Where he could hope to make a decent living” (Line 227-228)

   He hears confessions and only forgives to earn money.

Baylie Lindsey
Rhylee Meneses
About Friar

“But anywhere a profit might accrue/ Courteous he was and lowly of service too.” (Line 253-254)

Friar is going to do anything that it takes to earn money.

“When he had played his harp, or having sung,/ His eyes would twinkle in his head as bright/ As any star upon a frosty night.” (Line 276-278)

He likes to express himself through his musical talents such as singing and playing the harp.
Friar is a creepy and greedy old man who only cares about his money and young women. He also enjoys being vocal and loud while playing his hurdy-gurdy. He is classified in the aristocracy and is a character who prays.
The Merchant
Appearance and Social Status

1. “And Motley dress (line 281). This shows that he has multi-colored, which is a symbol of class during this time period.

2. “high on his horse he sat” (line 281) The Merchant travels on a horse, which shows he has a higher status than those traveling by walking.

3. “This estimable Merchant so had set” (line 289). By reading the text, we can infer that people thought highly of this man.

4. The Merchant would fall in the Middle Class category.

Annaliese and John
Debt and Financial Status

1. “He was an expert at dabbling in exchanges” (line 292) The text implies that he was good with financial and business matter.

2. “His wits to work, none knew he was in debt” (line 290) This shows us that he was heavily in debt, yet he kept it lowkey.

3. The merchant is characterized as a laborer.
The Clerk

1. “An Oxford Cleric, still a student though, One who had taken logic long ago” (295-296). This lets the reader understand that the Cleric is a student, therefore he must be young and have no occupation.

2. “His horse was thinner than a rake, And he was not too fat, I undertake, But had a hollow look, a sober stare” (297-299). This shows the reader that the Clerk owned a horse. Usually that is a sign of wealth, but with the him and the horse both being extremely skinny, you can infer that he is not rich.

3. “He preferred having twenty books in red And black, of Aristotle’s philosophy, than costly clothes, fiddle or psaltery.” (304-306) This statement gives knowledge that the Clerk would rather have knowledge than wealth. He found value in learning instead of money and appearance.
4. “He had not found the stone for making gold. Whatever money from his friends he took He spent on learning or another book” (308-310). Since he did not have a job, he often borrowed money from his friends. Instead of using this for needs such as clothes or food, he spent it on things to increase his knowledge and education.

5. “He never spoke a word more than was need, Formal at that, respectful in the extreme, Short, to the point, and lofty in his theme.” (314-316) The Clerk was very quiet and shy. He didn’t speak often, so when he did it was always specific. Also, the things he said we witty.
Class Ranking

The Clerk is a member of the middle class. He is a laborer because he worked towards his education.
Sergeant-at-Law
Modern name of a judge/lawyer traveled with Franklin

Christian Borders & Mal Carney
He wore a “parti-colored coat”. (338)
-He was wearing a coat that is different colors.
“He knew of every judgement case and crime”. (333)
-He knows the law very well.
“There was no where one so busy as he”. (331)
-He seemed to be very busy.
“Discreet he was, a man to reverence, so he seemed, his sayings were so wise”. (332-323)
-He was very good at speaking and incredibly smart.
“No one could pinch a coma from his screeds”. (336)
-He is a great writer.
Main Idea

He is a very smart lawyer who knows everything about the law and all of the court cases. He is dressed colorfully so he is more than likely rich. He is traveling with Franklin on his journey to Canterbury.
He was a middle class laborer.
THE FRANKLIN

By: Brooke Hefner and Ty Casto
What does it mean?

- Franklin- A wealthy landowner.
- He would also be considered middle class.
- He is a landed gentry who makes his money by collecting rent.

Where can you find this?

- Page 111 on lines 341-370
**Textual Evidence**

LINE 343- “A sanguine… colored and benign”

LINE 345 “He lived for pleasure.”

LINE 350-356 “He made his household free… finest of the fine.”

LINE 355 “It positively snowed with meat and drink”

LINE 369-370 “As sheriff… model among landed gentry”

**Interpretation**

He is a cheerful and kind man.

He enjoys life and does not have many worries.

He was very generous with his food, and welcomed people into his home.

He had an abundance of food year round.

He collected taxes from those who lived on his land.
He was a very wealthy and generous man who never failed to share his wealth with those less fortunate. He lived a very cheerful life like “Epicurus” (346). He didn’t have to work for his wealth, he received his fortune from landed gentries who lived on his land.
Haberdasher, Dyer, Carpenter, Weaver, Carpetmaker

Jaci McElyea
What are They?

A Haberdasher, Dyer, Carpenter, Weaver and a Carpetmaker are the 5 tradesmen who all belong to the same fraternal trade organization and wear its uniforms.

Haberdasher- dealer of men's clothing
Dyer- dyeing of clothes
Carpenter- makes wooden objects
Weaver- weaves fabric
Carpetmaker- makes carpet
On page 112 in line 371 the author writes, “A haberdasher, a Dyer, a Carpenter, a Weaver, and a carpet maker were among our ranks...they were trim and fresh.”

Lines 376-377 “Their knives were not tricked out with brass/ But wrought with the purest silver.”

Lines 379-380 “Each seemed a worthy burgess, fit to grace/ A guild-hall with a seat upon the dais.”

- The author is trying to say that they were always well put together and never in slums like the common people
- This means that the things they owned were not cheap or weren't makeshift weapons
- All of them were worthy men, and metaphorically had “a seat upon the dais”, which is seats of honor.
Textual Evidence

Lines 381-383 “Their wisdom would have justified a plan/ To make each one of them an alderman/ They had the capital and revenue…”

Lines 384-386 “Besides their wives declared it was their due./ And if they did not think so, then they ought;/ To be called “Madam” is a glorious thought”

- An alderman is a high ranking member of a town council and in order for them to become that they had to have the wealth.

- The wives of these men longed to have their husbands of high ranking. Just simply being called “Madam”, made them happy
The Canterbury Tales: The Cook

Caroline Beaty
“They had a *Cook* with them who stood alone” (389)

He is a shy, maybe even secretive, man who likes to be alone. He is a laborer who works hard.

“He could distinguish London ale by flavor,” (392)

He is a man well acquainted with liquor.

“And he could roast and seethe and broil and fry,” (393)

He is not limited to one dish, but is a man who can produce many things.
“But what a pity—so it seemed to me, / That he should have an ulcer on his knee.” (395-396)

Something mysterious happened to the cook. He does not lead a boring life.

“As for blancmange, he made it with the best.” (397)

He uses the best ingredients which tells the reader he is well educated in his craft and prosperous (middle class).

Main idea: Very little is written about the cook, so he is either a minor character or little is known about him because of his shy/secretive attitude. What is know about him, however, is that he is excellent at his job and is able to produce a variety of goods.
Skipper: The Shipman

Bryson Rule and Kensi Chowning
Textual Evidence

1. “He rode a farmer’s horse as best he could” (400)
2. “Certainly he was an excellent fellow” (405)
3. “If, when he fought, the enemy vessel sank” (409)

Interpretation

1. Skipper is riding his farmer’s horse, so he must not be wealthy.

2. Skipper is not an excellent fellow, Chaucer is being sarcastic in this line. We know this because the following lines about his violence.

3. Skipper was a great warrior.

Bryson Rule and Kensi Chowning
4. “That none from Hull to Carthage was his match” (414)

5. “The barge he owned was called The Maudelayne” (420)

4. Skipper was well known as a great warrior and no one was comparable.

5. Skipper was middle class because he had to borrow a horse but he owned a boat.

Bryson Rule and Kensi Chowning
Skipper seems as if he is a great character, but he is violent and everyone in these areas know it.

Bryson Rule and Kensi Chowning
Doctor

From the creative and brilliant minds of Sidney Timmer and Martín Morini
Occupation

- He was incredible at his job and “no one alive could talk as well as he did on points of medicine and surgery” (422-423).
- The doctor used a lost of astronomy and superstition of sorts in his treatments as “He watched his patient closely for the hours when, by his horoscope, he knew the powers of favorable planets” (425-427).
- He had a pretty sweet set up because “All his apothecaries in a tribe were ready with the drugs he would prescribe and each made money from the other's guile” (435-437). Basically, even though he helped people, he didn't miss a chance to make some money with his cunning.
Personal Information

- His wealth is shown when he is “blood-red garments, slashed with bluish gray and lined with taffeta”(449-450).
- He eats a simple healthy diet of only “digestives, nutritives, and such”(447).
- Despite him going on a pilgrimage, it says he “did not read the Bible very much” (448).
- Whilst helping people, he was also very greedy and materialistic as “Gold stimulates the heart, or so we're told. He therefore had a special love of gold”(453-454).
Status

- He's in the middle class
- He works instead of praying or fighting
- Has money, but very greedy and stingy.