**“Prologue to the Wife of Bath’s Tale” Reading Questions**

1. What is the Wife of Bath’s argument in the first part of this prologue? What is she trying to convince her fellow travelers of?
2. List three pieces of support she uses to develop her argument.
3. Does she convince you? Why or why not? Do you think she would have convinced Chaucer’s audience?
4. Describe the wife’s three good husbands. What makes them good?
5. The Wife of Bath lists several complaints men typically make about women. What are some of these common complaints? (List two or three.)
6. The Wife of Bath has had two bad husbands. What is wrong with each of them? (They each are “horrible” in their own unique way)
7. How does she become deaf in one ear?
8. How does she gain mastery over her last husband?
9. Why do you think the Wife of Bath takes pilgrimages?
10. If this is an *estates satire* about people who reject or do not fulfill their stations in life, how does the Wife of Bath fit into it? How is she rejecting or failing to fulfill her station as a woman?