The Friar’s Prologue/Tale Reading Guide

*Please answer in complete sentences unless otherwise stated*

Prologue

1. Why does the Friar dislike summoners?
2. What does the Summoner say he’ll do if the Friar goes ahead in telling his tale?

Tale

1. What does the Summoner do for the archdeacon?
2. Read the excerpt from the Bible regarding Judas. How is Judas’ method of obtaining wealth similar/different from the Summoner’s methods?
3. Why does the Summoner ride out to find the widow?
4. When asked of his profession by the Yeoman, the Summoner lies. Why?
5. Explain how the Yeoman/Bailiff makes his money. How is this similar to the Summoner?
6. The Summoner asks the Yeoman/Bailiff why he uses several forms as a demon instead of one when roaming the earth. What is the Yeoman/Bailiff’s explanation?
7. When we find the carter stuck in the mud, he asks the devil to take his cart and hay and horses too. Why does the devil refuse?
8. Explain the widow’s character. What kind of person is she?
9. What does the Summoner accuse the widow of?
10. The widow asks the devil to take the pan and the Summoner with him to hell. Why does the devil this time accept the offer?
11. What is the moral of the Friar’s Tale?

An excerpt from the New Testament regarding Judas Iscariot

**JOHN 13:21-27** When he had said these things, Jesus was greatly distressed in spirit, and testified, “I tell you the solemn truth, one of you will betray me.” **22** The disciples began to look at one another, worried and perplexed to know which of them he was talking about. **23** One of his disciples, the one Jesus loved, was at the table to the right of Jesus in a place of honor. **24** So Simon Peter gestured to this disciple to ask Jesus who it was he was referring to. **25** Then the disciple whom Jesus loved leaned back against Jesus’ chest and asked him, “Lord, who is it?” **26** Jesus replied, “It is the one to whom I will give this piece of bread after I have dipped it in the dish.” Then he dipped the piece of bread in the dish and gave it to Judas Iscariot, Simon’s son. **27** And after Judas took the piece of bread, Satan entered into him. Jesus said to him, “What you are about to do, do quickly.”

**MATTHEW 26:47-50** While he was still speaking, Judas, one of the twelve, arrived. With him was a large crowd armed with swords and clubs, sent by the chief priests and elders of the people. **48** (Now the betrayer had given them a sign, saying, “The one I kiss is the man. Arrest him!”) **49** Immediately he went up to Jesus and said, “Greetings, Rabbi,” and kissed him. **50** Jesus said to him, “Friend, do what you are here to do.” Then they came and took hold of Jesus and arrested him.

**MATTHEW 27:3-5** Now when Judas, who had betrayed him, saw that Jesus had been condemned, he regretted what he had done and returned the thirty silver coins to the chief priests and the elders, **4** saying, “I have sinned by betraying innocent blood!” But they said, “What is that to us? You take care of it yourself!” **5** So Judas threw the silver coins into the temple and left. Then he went out and hanged himself.