The Squire’s Prologue/Tale Reading Guide

*Please answer in complete sentences unless otherwise stated*

Prologue

1. What does the host assume the squire’s tale will be about?

Tale

1. Describe King Cambinskan’s family.
2. Who arrives during Cambinskan’s feast? How do the people at the feast react?
3. What magical powers does the brass horse possess?
4. What magical powers does the mirror possess?
5. What magical powers does the ring possess? Who is it intended for?
6. What magical powers does the sword possess?
7. Read the excerpt from Virgil’s *Aeneid* regarding the Trojan Horse. Why might the towns’ people suspect something like this in the case of the squire’s tale?
8. What attracts Canace’s attention about the falcon in the tree?
9. Summarize the falcon’s tale. Why is she so upset?
10. What does Canace do with the falcon?
11. What does the tale reveal about the way men behave in this society?
12. What does this tale reveal about the way women are expected to behave in this society?

**Virgil’s *Aeneid***

After many years have slipped by, the leaders of the Greeks,  
opposed by the Fates, and damaged by the war,  
build a horse of mountainous size, through Pallas’s divine art,  
and weave planks of fir over its ribs:  
they pretend it’s a votive offering: this rumour spreads.  
They secretly hide a picked body of men, chosen by lot,  
there, in the dark body, filling the belly and the huge  
cavernous insides with armed warriors.

[...]

Then Laocoön rushes down eagerly from the heights  
of the citadel, to confront them all, a large crowd with him,  
and shouts from far off: ‘O unhappy citizens, what madness?  
Do you think the enemy’s sailed away? Or do you think  
any Greek gift’s free of treachery? Is that Ulysses’s reputation?  
Either there are Greeks in hiding, concealed by the wood,  
or it’s been built as a machine to use against our walls,  
or spy on our homes, or fall on the city from above,  
or it hides some other trick: Trojans, don’t trust this horse.  
Whatever it is, I’m afraid of Greeks even those bearing gifts.’