The Franklin’s Prologue/Tale Reading Guide

*Please answer in complete sentences unless otherwise stated*

Prologue

1. What does the Franklin beg of his companions before beginning his tale?

Tale

1. Characterize the relationship between Arviragus and Dorigen.
2. Why does Arviragus head off to Britain?
3. When Dorigen and her friends are walking by the sea, something makes her heart tremble and she must sit a moment on the grass. What has she seen?
4. A handsome squire (Aurelius) dances past Dorigen in the garden. Describe him in detail.
5. Dorigen says she will be Aurelius’ bride under what conditions?
6. Aurelius first consults whom to fulfill his task set by Dorigen? What happens to him as a result of this consultation?
7. Why do Aurelius and his brother set out for Orleans? What do they want from there?
8. Before Arviragus comes home, what does Dorigen decide to do when reminded of her promise? Why does she choose this?
9. What, according to Arviragus, is the highest thing a man may keep?
10. Read the excerpt from the code of chivalry. Explain how both Aurelius and Arviragus fit the mold using examples from the text.
11. What question does the Franklin ask of his fellow travelers once his tale is done?
12. What is the moral of the Franklin’s tale?

**Knights Code of Chivalry dating back to the Dark Ages**The Knights Code of Chivalry was part of the culture of the Middle Ages and was understood by all. A Code of Chivalry was documented in 'The Song of Roland' in the Middle Ages Knights period of William the Conqueror who ruled England from 1066. The 'Song of Roland' describes the 8th century Knights of the Dark Ages and the battles fought by the Emperor Charlemagne. The code has since been described as Charlemagne's Code of Chivalry. The Song of Roland was the most famous 'chanson de geste' and was composed between 1098-1100, describing the betrayal of Count Roland at the hand of Ganelon, and his resulting death in the Pyranee Mountains at the hands of the Saracens. Roland was a loyal defender of his liege Lord Charlemagne and his code of conduct a description of the meaning of chivalry.

**The Knights Code of Chivalry and the vows of Knighthood**
The Knights Code of Chivalry described in the Song of Roland and an excellent representation of the Knights Codes of Chivalry are as follows:

* To fear God and maintain His Church
* To serve the liege lord in valour and faith
* To protect the weak and defenceless
* To give succour to widows and orphans
* To refrain from the wanton giving of offence
* To live by honour and for glory
* To despise pecuniary reward
* To fight for the welfare of all
* To obey those placed in authority
* To guard the honour of fellow knights
* To eschew unfairness, meanness and deceit
* To keep faith
* At all times to speak the truth
* To persevere to the end in any enterprise begun
* To respect the honour of women
* Never to refuse a challenge from an equal
* Never to turn the back upon a foe