The Reeve’s Tale reading guide

*Please answer in complete sentences unless otherwise stated*

Prologue

1. What is the Reeve’s chief complaint about himself?
2. Why does the Reeve choose to tell a tale about a miller?

Tale

1. Describe Simpkin. What kind of person is he? How does he act? What does he do?
2. Briefly describe each of the other members of Simpkin’s family.
3. Why is the warden upset at the miller?
4. How are John and Alain going to make sure Simpkin doesn’t steal anything from them?
5. What does Simpkin do to be able to steal from the clerks? What does he do with the stolen flour?
6. What are the sleeping arrangements at the beginning of the night?
7. How does Alain justify sleeping with the miller’s daughter?
8. Describe in detail the way in which John gets the miller’s wife to join him in bed.
9. How does the miller find out what happened to his daughter?
10. All told, list everything the miller has lost as a result of letting the clerks stay in his house.
11. What is the moral of this tale?