British Literature Unit 2 Study Guide

Medieval Unit Part 1—*The Canterbury Tales*

* *The Canterbury Tales* is a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ narrative. What does this mean?
* Geoffrey Chaucer is important because he is called the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
* Describe the significance of Thomas a’Becket to *The Canterbury Tales*
* Describe the 3 estates in medieval society
	+ 1st estate:
	+ 2nd estate:
	+ 3rd estate:

* + Floater
* Which estate would you place Geoffrey Chaucer in? Why?
* List the characteristics of a Medieval Romance and explain how they are present in “The Wife of Bath’s Tale”

Characteristic of Medieval Romance Example from “The Wife of Bath’s Tale”

* What lesson does the knight in “The Wife of Bath’s Tale” learn? Why is this appropriate for the character the Wife of Bath to tell this story?
* What is an ALLEGORY?
* What was the moral of “The Pardoner’s Tale” ? Why was this ironic?
* Describe the relationship of “Courtly Love”
* It will also be important to have general knowledge of the time period from the background notes. You can list anything else you know here