

## Guide for the Wife of Bath

1. Look for internet sites on the following topics:

FEMINISM

GENDER

HISTORY OF SEXUALITY

MISOGNY

MARRIAGE

Record the best "hits" in your Technology Log

2. What argument is introduced by the opening lines?

Experience, even if there were no other authority

in this world, would be grounds enough for me

to speak of the woe that is in marriage.

3. In the quotation above, what are the two sources of knowledge about topic of marriage? How do these provide an outline for the Wife's prologue?

4. Before the Wife begins her discussion of woe in marriage, she undertakes to refute three sexist views of women: women should marry only once; virginity is the highest state; and the function of sexual organs. Look at her conclusion.

5. Briefly outline her first three marriages 6. How would you describe her fourth marriage? How old is the Wife at this point?

7. Her fifth marriage? How old is her husband? How does she gain mastery over him?

8. Does her tale have the same theme as her prologue? Look carefully at the end.

9. Who is the old lady? Is she a mirror of the Wife herself?

10. Can a male author be a feminist?