

AP English Notes October 18, 2004

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The internet address for this service is www.finditva.com



The screenshot shows the main page of the Find It Virginia website. At the top left, there is a list of resources available: magazine & newspaper articles, TV and radio transcripts, encyclopedias and other reference works, company information & investment reports, health and wellness information, literary criticism, and more. In the center, there is a logo for Find It Virginia with the website URL. Below the logo, it mentions a 2002 Governor's Technology Award. To the right, there is a prompt to search individual library catalogs for books and other materials, with a link to visit the local public library on the web. Below this, there are links for 'Need Help or Have Questions?' and 'Privacy Policy'. The main search area includes a dropdown menu for selecting a library, a text input field for the library card number (with a 'No spaces please!' warning), and a 'Submit' button. A note below the button says 'Click Submit and you can start your research by selecting a database.' On the right side, there is a link to 'Find your local library by city or county name.'



This screenshot shows the dropdown menu for selecting a public library. The menu is open, displaying a list of Virginia public libraries. The list includes: Alexandria Library, Amherst County Public Library, Appomattox Regional Library, Arlington Department of Libraries, Augusta County Library, Bedford Public Library, Blackwater Regional Library, Blue Ridge Regional Library, Botetourt County Library, Bristol Public Library, Buchanan County Public Library, Campbell County Public Library, Caroline Library, Inc., Central Rappahannock Regional Library, Central Virginia Regional Library, Charles P. Jones Memorial Library, Charlotte County Public Library, Chesapeake Public Library, Chesterfield County Public Library, Clifton Forge Public Library, Colonial Heights Public Library, Craig County, Culpeper County Library, Cumberland County Public Library, Danville Public Library, Eastern Shore Public Library, Essex Public Library, Fairfax County Public Library, and Fauquier County Public Library.

Remember to select your local Virginia library from the drop down menu.

Also remember to enter your library card number.

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Your descriptive paper is due Wednesday, October 20, 2004.

Look carefully at Chaucer's techniques in presenting vivid descriptions of the manner of dress and personality of his characters. Although Chaucer appears never to criticize his subjects but simply relates the character's dress, physical form, and mannerisms, the readers enjoy the facade of innocent revelation that the author invokes. Describe a well-known historical, political, or entertainment personality using the techniques that Chaucer utilizes.

Here is a portion of the example given on air:

The task of description has been assigned; the person selected is known by all. The lines that follow contain all that one needs to identify this man of a past hour; however, the reader must supply the name.

The country traveled with this man of steel with feet of clay for eight years. He loves his wife, and girlfriends too, and longs for a trip to McDonalds's drive through.

With boyish grin and Missouri drawl, his charm--he thinks--makes ladies weak. Yet, his power and position might be the magnets for the sweet, young things who intern and shop at The Gap.

His famous question when under indictment of "What do you mean by truth?" stunned the Senate and housewives too. This man, with his Paulas, Monicas, cigars, and Nike shoes, shocked middle class America and a few yahoos.

What to use in your paper:

Vivid Images

Personification

- A smile danced across the Nun's face.
- Heaven glanced earthward and shivered.

Metaphor

- She is the night.
- His breath is a dead mule.

Simile--A comparison using like or as

- She is like the night.
- His breath is like

Wife of Bath Prologue Notes by Andrew Moore

451-502: The first three husbands have been vaguely and generally depicted above, but here the Wife provides a more definite portrait of the fourth, who was riotous and kept a mistress. Having

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said this, she breaks off to describe herself as she then was: fun-loving, full of vigor and a wine-bibber whom even the murderous Metellius of classical notoriety could not have deterred from drinking, which made her lecherous - a fact known to some men, who would take advantage of it. Reflecting on her younger days, she laments the passing of beauty and vigor - but, though the flour is gone, she will sell the bran as dearly as she may. She returns to her description of her fourth husband, recalling how she was made jealous by his infidelity, paying him back in like manner, though she claims to have only pretended to illicit affairs. In the end, she claims, her husband was made jealous and felt his shoe pinch. On the Wife's return from a pilgrimage (in Jerusalem) he died and was buried, at no great expense, as she freely admits.

503-586: The Wife speaks at length of her last husband, whom, despite his ill-treatment of her, she loved best of all the five, both for his prowess in bed, and for the difficulty with which his love was won. For, says the Wife, women love best what is hardest to gain. The fifth husband was formerly a student of Oxford, lodging with the Wife's "gossip", Alisoun (Allison of Alice), to whom she told all her and her (fourth) husband's secrets. One Lent, while he was in London, the Wife had leisure to attend various vigils and processions. Walking in a field with Jankin, she dropped a hint that were she free to marry, he should wed her. She commends herself for this insight, not wishing to be like the mouse which has only one hole to which to run, going on to tell of inventing an account of a dream in which Jankin killed her as she lay in bed.

587-626: The Wife tells of her fourth husband's burial, recalling clearly the trim and shapely legs of Jankin, among the mourners walking after the coffin. He was then twenty and she twice (40) his age, but she thinks little of the age difference because of her coltishness and she is born under the sign Venus.

627-710: The Wife tells of her wedding to Jankin and her subsequent regret at marrying. She briefly mentions Jankin's striking her (making her deaf in one ear) for tearing a page from the Book of Evil Wives. Jankin's misogyny (dislike of women) was aggravated by the Wife's wilfulness. She recalls how he would lecture her on the evils of women, using as authority various ancient classical writers. Stating again her intention of explaining Jankin's attack on her, she proceeds instead to describe the contents of the book which caused the quarrel. This was Jankin's favourite volume, a collection of misogynist works. From this book, Jankin would read of the wickedness of women, knowing more stories than there are of good women in the Bible. The Wife notes the bias of these works written not merely by men but by scholarly clerics, whose character (governed by Mercury) is opposed to Venus.

711-828: The wife comes at last to the point of her story about the torn book. Jankin had provoked her by reading of the wickedness of Eve; of Delilah's treachery to Samson; of Deianira's abuse of Hercules; of Socrates' suffering at the hands of his two wives; of the

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unnatural lust of Pasiphäæ; of Clytemnestra and Eriphyle, who brought about the deaths of their husbands. Having related all this, Jankin attempted to rest his case, by citing a succession of biblical proverbs of the same misogynist character. Maddened beyond endurance, the Wife snatched at his book, tearing out three pages (earlier she has said it was one page), struck Jankin on the cheek and knocked him into the fire (which line 714 suggests was alight). At this, Jankin leapt up and hit the Wife, who fell, feigning death, to the floor. After noting Jankin's horrified reaction, the Wife pretended to revive, accused Jankin of murdering her for her wealth, and, as if nobly, demanded a last kiss. Jankin knelt down meekly and promised never to strike her again (pointing out, however, that her assault had provoked his retaliation). He concluded by begging forgiveness, whereupon the Wife struck him again, and feigned inability to say or do more. After this episode, she tells us, she and Jankin were reconciled and she was able, as with her former husbands, to gain the whip hand, so far achieving mastery over Jankin, as to compel him to burn the offending book. After this, she treated him as lovingly as any wife would, while she returned this love. She prays that God will have mercy on the soul of Jankin, who has evidently since died. The Wife tells her audience nothing of this death: her prologue is so chaotic in its spontaneity, that she may not know she has omitted to tell us.

The Wife of Bath's Tale

857-918: The Wife's story is set in the time of King Arthur, when fairies abounded in England; she ironically praises holy men, such as the friar, for driving them out. The "hero" of the story is a young knight, condemned to death for rape, but reprieved, at the insistence of Arthur's queen. His life will be spared if he can find out, within a year, what thing women most desire. The knight is troubled, but has no choice.

919-982: The Wife digresses to describe some of the things women are thought most to like. One of these suggestions is that women wish to be thought capable of discretion. This is clearly not the answer to the knight's question, but the Wife digresses further to quote a tale from Ovid's *Metamorphoses*, about Midas's ears!

982-1072: The Wife returns to her tale, telling how the knight has failed to find the answer he seeks, when, on the day he must turn for home, he sees a group of (24) dancers by a forest. They are fairies, and when he approaches, all of them disappear, leaving an ugly old woman sitting on the green. He tells her of his troubles, and she offers to give him the answer to the queen's question, but, in return he must grant her whatever she asks for, which he promises to do. She whispers the answer in his ear (a naive touch--there is no--one around to hear what she says, but the device explains the Wife's keeping the answer from her audience).