ANALYSIS AND CHARACTERISATION OF THE WIFE OF BATH:

The Wife of Bath is one of the main characters in “the Canterbury tales” by Geoffrey Chaucer.

The intelligent reader immediately expects that she arrives from Bath (it was a very important city for medieval tourism).

The Wife of Bath is a pilgrim and the narrator begins the text describing her origin and he also says she is a little deaf.

The author also used a lots of superlatives, like bettered (line 4) to exalt the Wife; he also used parody and he teases the Wife at line 3 (“in making cloth she showed so great bent”).

The author also says she has a worthy woman: so the first category was the narrator’s judgment.

He also uses the sound “w” and in this way we can remember the Wife.

The Wife of Bath is an austere and respected woman, “in all the parish not a dome dared stir towards the altar steps in front of her”(lines 5-6).

The author also says that she dressed very well, especially on Sunday (in the Middle Ages the people had two dresses: one for work and one for Sunday). She have red hose and this color is the symbol of the passion : “her hose were of the finest scarlet red and gartered tight”( lines 13-14).

She had five husbands and other company in youth (lines 16-17): with this lines the author tells about the Wife as a prostitute. She went to lots of places, like Rome, Boulogne, Cologne, Compostella, Jerusalem: the intelligent reader can understand that in the Middle Age a person couldn’t visit all this places and the narrator uses a hyperbole there.

She had a gap-teeth and during the Middle Age this means that she is designated for Journey and sex.

We can understand that the Wife of Bath belongs to the Middle class and she was an independent woman.

ANALYSIS AND CHARACTERISATION OF THE MILLER:

The text “the Miller” belongs to the Canterbury tales, written by Geoffrey Chaucer.

Chaucer describes Miller as an enormous man “the Miller was a chap of sixteen stone”(line 1): we can understand that the author uses an hyperbole.

The first category is his profession, that is the miller.

The second category is his physical description: the author says that he is “stout big in brawn and bone”. The author also says that he could win all the wrestling show: also there, Chaucer uses a hyperbole too.

Then, the narrator underlines Miller’s stupidly, at lines 6-7 “ he could heave any door off hinge and post, or take a run and break it with his head”.

Then the author describes the face of the protagonist: he had a red beard and Chaucer compares the beard to fox; so the narrator uses parody and makes ridiculous Miller.

Miller also has a wart with a tuft of hair and Chaucer presents us Miller as a rude man.

The fourth category describes his work and the author tells that Miller is a thief.

The fifth category is his style of dressing; they dresses were a white coat and a hood of blue. He also has a sword.

In the sixth category, the narrator says that Miller plays a bagpipes and “that was how he brought us out of town”(line24); with this line, we can understand that also Miller was a pilgrim.