

1. The Knight is one of the few pilgrims who provide no personal *Prologue*. The Miller first talks about how drunk he is, the Wife of Bath first outlines her different marriages before telling their story; the Knight, however, just dives straight in. Why do you suppose that is?
  - The first, but minor, reason is that the Knight is the first to tell the story and therefore has nothing to respond or react to.
  - The main reason is that we have already learned from the General Prologue that the Knight is a true and noble knight, humble and averse to boasting. It is therefore logical that he would waste no time introducing his story by talking about himself, which of course isn't very dignified.
  
2. In the Middle Ages, people believed that the outward appearance of a person said a great deal about their character. Read the description of the Miller again. What would a medieval person conclude about the Miller's character based on this description?
  - strong, burly: he's probably aggressive
  - a wart on his nose: he's probably vulgar
  - red hair: he's probably lecherous (i.e. fond of sex and obscenities)
  
3. Before the Wife of Bath dives into her story, she tells something about her personal life, particularly her five marriages. She was first married off as a twelve-year-old to a much older man, but her husband's death (and those of her following husbands) left her a wealthy woman. Her fourth and fifth marriages were to much younger men, and with these she had passionate fights over who had control over the household. These fights the Wife of Bath would win.

How do the Wife of Bath's ideas about marriage and the relationship between man and wife resurface in her tale?

  - At the end of the story, the knight learns that what women most truly desire is to have their way. His wife then poses him with this choice: whether he would keep her pretty, but not have her to himself, or whether he would keep her as an old hag, but being true to him all the while. He ultimately demonstrates having learned his lesson by letting his wife have the choice and relinquishing his right to governance. This mirrors the Wife of Bath, who fought with her husbands and, once she had truly won control over her household, was a loving wife evermore.