Canterbury Tales: “The General Prologue”

DIRECTIONS: You will find below all of the pilgrims mentioned in “The General Prologue.” Be able to answer the following:

1. How does Chaucer characterize each pilgrim in the prologue? Make sure you can describe his/her job, personality, and appearance, their company, etc.
2. Find 1 example of a direct characterization and 1 example of an indirect characterization.
3. Consider how an ideal version of each character would act/conduct themselves in REAL LIFE during this time period (or make educated guesses from what we’ve discussed.) Does this character conduct himself accordingly or not?

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Pilgrim | Chaucer’s Characterization  ***(job, personality, appearance, friends, etc.)*** | 1 Direct Characterization  &  1 Indirect Characterization | EXPLAIN whether or not this pilgrim acts like they should. |
| The Knight | Worthy man, chivalrous, truthful, honorable, fought a lot of battles (15) always won for his lord, a gentleman, dresses plain, the squire’s father. | * (DIR) “followed chivalry, truth, honor, generousness, and courtesy”   (IND) “He was not gaily dressed. He wore a frustian tunic, stained and dark with smudges where his armor had left mark” | Yes, he is chivalrous, honorable, fights nobly in battles, and follows idea of courtly love. It is exactly like a knight should. |
| Squire  ***(****Definition: A knight in training)* |  |  |  |
| Yeoman  *(Definition: an independent farmers fighting in the wars)* |  |  |  |
| Prioress (Nun)  *(Definition: a woman who devotes her life to the church - bound by vows of poverty, chastity, and obedience)* |  |  |  |
| Monk  *Definition: a man who devotes his life to the church -bound by vows of poverty, chastity, and obedience* ***)*** |  |  |  |
| Friar  *(Definition: a member of the church in charge of raising money)* |  |  |  |