Name:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_Date:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_Class:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

*Canterbury Tales: The Prologue*

Direct & Indirect Characterization

Authors use different methods of *characterization* to reveal something about the characters you read about.

* **Direct characterization** is when the author presents direct statements about a character, like Chaucer’s statement that the Knight “followed chivalry…”
* **Indirect characterization** is when the author uses actions, thoughts, dialogue, and description to reveal a character’s personality. By saying the Knight is “not gaily dressed,” Chaucer suggests that he is not vain.

Each character in the reading represents a different segment of society in Chaucer’s time. By using characterization to reveal the virtues and faults of each, Chaucer provides **social commentary**; writing that offers insight into society, its values, and its customs.

**Directions:** Choose **4** characters from “The Prologue.” Identify whether each character is described using direct or indirect characterization. You must have at least one example of each type of characterization! Provide an example (in-text citation/quote) and provide an explanation about the social commentary.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Name of Character** | **Direct or Indirect Characterization?** | **Example: In-text citation**  Introduce quote, “Example from text of direct/indirect characterization” (Chaucer \_\_\_). | **Social Commentary**  1. What do YOU think that Chaucer is trying to reveal about his society, values, and customs?  2. Why do you think that? |
| 1. |  |  |  |
| 2. |  |  |  |
| 3. |  |  |  |
| 4. |  |  |  |