**CONTEXT AND LITERARY FEATURES IN THE SET TEXTS**

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| **PERSEPOLIS** |  | **WIFE OF BATH** |
|  | **SETTING** |  |
|  | **CRITICAL INTENTION** | Interpretation differs. We have no real idea of Chaucer’s intention. Possibilities include:  Men  The Wife  The Social World  Marriage  Pilgrimages/Religion/The Church  The Knight and Gentilesse |
|  | **SOCIAL/POLITICAL CONTEXT** | * Medieval life c.500 to c.1500. * Relationship [between Church and society](http://www.crossref-it.info/textguide/The-Wife-of-Bath's-Prologue-and-Tale/30/2013) * [Marriage in England in the fourteenth century](http://www.crossref-it.info/textguide/The-Wife-of-Bath's-Prologue-and-Tale/30/2014) * [The reality of death](http://www.crossref-it.info/textguide/The-Wife-of-Bath's-Prologue-and-Tale/30/2015) * Era of social and economical change   http://www.crossref-it.info/textguide/The-Wife-of-Bath's-Prologue-and-Tale/30/2015 |
|  | **RELIGIOUS/PHILOSOPHICAL CONTEXT** | * [Medieval beliefs about sin and forgiveness](http://www.crossref-it.info/textguide/The-Wife-of-Bath's-Prologue-and-Tale/30/2017) * [Pilgrims and pilgrimage](http://www.crossref-it.info/textguide/The-Wife-of-Bath's-Prologue-and-Tale/30/2018) * [Astronomy and astrology](http://www.crossref-it.info/textguide/The-Wife-of-Bath's-Prologue-and-Tale/30/2019) |
|  | **LITERARY CONTEXT** | * [Other writers from Chaucer's time](http://www.crossref-it.info/textguide/The-Wife-of-Bath's-Prologue-and-Tale/30/2020) * [Romance and courtly love](http://www.crossref-it.info/textguide/The-Wife-of-Bath's-Prologue-and-Tale/30/2021) * [Medieval literary conventions](http://www.crossref-it.info/textguide/The-Wife-of-Bath's-Prologue-and-Tale/30/2022) * [Chaucer's English](http://www.crossref-it.info/textguide/The-Wife-of-Bath's-Prologue-and-Tale/30/2023) * [Chaucer's metre: Iambic](http://www.crossref-it.info/textguide/The-Wife-of-Bath's-Prologue-and-Tale/30/2024) |
|  | **NARRATIVE VOICE** | WOB Tale has two narrative voices:  One is the story-telling voice adopted by the Wife to deliver the narrative.  The other is the characteristic first person voice of the Wife.  The Wife’s narrative voice, and in some instances the dominance of particular themes, ‘customise’ the tale to the Wife as narrator. |
|  | **THEMES**   * A desire to live life to the full |  |
|  | * Silence | Male Silence/Victim’s Silence |
|  | * Struggle for Power |  |
|  | * Gender Portrayal | **Men** in the *Prologue* are deemed to be controlling and misogynistic.  In *The Tale* the crime is committed by a man.  In *The Prologue*, **women** are represented as gossipy and manipulative or perhaps resourceful and outspoken in tackling the inequality of their situation in marriage?  *The Tale* superficially values women and their opinions (e.g. their views are sought in the quest) but basically denigrates them:  The Old Woman has to be transformed into a young woman to be seen as being entirely satisfactory  The young raped girl who might validly have spoken for wronged women disappears from the text  The Queen is an example of a wise and powerful female but even she has solicited her power from her husband. |
|  | * Justice |  |
|  | * **Identity** |  |
| Serve as a filler… | **FLASHBACKS** |  |
| Not needed as her images are drawn | **IMAGERY** |  |
|  | **IMAGES** |  |
|  | **FIGURES** (Faces can be portrayed in different ways. Some depict an actual person, others can represent an idea, or group of people). | NA |
|  | **LAYOUT**  **panel** – a distinct segment of the comic, containing a combination of image and text in endless variety.  **frame** – the lines and borders that contain the panels.  **gutter** – the space between framed panels  **foreground** – the panel closest to the viewer | NA |
|  | **HUMOUR** |  |
|  | **CHARACTERISATION** |  |
| Simple… | **LANGUAGE/DICTION** | Like her *Prologue*, the Wife’s *Tale* is written in iambic pentameters in rhyming couplets. |
|  | **SARCASM** |  |
|  | **HISTORICAL ILLUSIONS** |  |
|  | **RELIGIOUS ILLUSIONS** |  |
|  | **USE OF DIALOGUE** |  |
|  | **SPEECH BALLOONS** (these enclose dialogue that comes from a specific speaker’s mouth. These can show external dialogue, or internal thoughts) | NA |
|  | **CAPTIONS** (these are boxes containing a variety of text elements. They can add narration, or describe the physical setting or the scene). | NA |
|  | **PROTAGONIST** |  |
|  | **ANTAGONIST** |  |
|  | **IRONY** |  |
|  | **MOOD** |  |
|  | **SYMBOLISM** (Visual/Textual) |  |
|  | **REPETITION** |  |
|  | **MOTIF** |  |
| artistic style is bold and straightforward to evoke the simplicity of childhood drawings and making her work accessible to readers. | **AUTHOR STYLE** |  |
|  | **FORM/STRUCTURE** | **Prologue**   1. From the discussion of the validity of her serial marriages 2. To an account of her victories over the first three husbands (treated as a group) 3. To her fourth marriage   4. Then to her fifth marriage to clerk. |
|  | **PACE** | Varies e.g. |
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