**Introduction to the Canterbury Tales Videos from Dr. Masullo (YouTube)**

Watch the “Historical Context for *The Canterbury* Tales” video by Dr. Masullo (link under Middle Ages tab on class website) and answer the following questions on a separate sheet of paper:

1. What event in 1066 ended the Anglo Saxon period?
2. How are the Anglo Saxons and the Normans connected?
3. Who led the Norman invasion of Britannia in 1066?
4. Broadly speaking, we can divide medieval society into what three categories?
5. A. What was one of William I’s most important initiatives? B. Why was it important?
6. What would an examination of the names recorded in the Domesday Book reveal?
7. A. What was the official language of the aristocracy during the Middle Ages? B. What was the primary language spoken by the peasantry?
8. What was the primary obligation of the people in the middle levels of feudalism?
9. What was the premise of courtly love?
10. A. What were some differences between aristocratic women and peasant women? B.Similarlities?
11. What were the Crusades?
12. What was one major source of urban growth?
13. What was a guild?
14. In what ways did the Crusades affect the educational system of the Middle Ages?
15. How did the martyrdom of Thomas a ‘Becket increase the power of the church?
16. How did the Magna Carta contribute to the decline of feudalism?
17. How did the Black Plague contribute to the decline of feudalism?
18. How did the Hundred Years’ War affect the British people?
19. A. What is a Yeoman? B. What is the significance of the Yeoman?

Watch the “Language of *The Canterbury Tales*” video by Dr. Masullo (link under Middle Ages tab on class website) and answer the following questions on a separate sheet of paper:

1. In addition to social, political, and economic changes taking place in the Middle Ages, what other type of change was occurring?
2. From where did the most important linguistic changes come?
3. In what language did Chaucer write?
4. What metaphor could be used to describe Middle English?
5. A. Why did Anglo Saxon women frequently marry French Norman men? B. How did this impact the language of the Middle Ages?
6. A. As opposed to Anglo Saxon/Old English, which was a Germanic language, what type of language was French? B. What does this mean?
7. Consider list of the 100 most commonly used words in the English language. A. What characteristic do most of them share? B. How many of them come from Anglo Saxon/Old English?
8. A. In contrast to the words that come from Anglo Saxon, words that originate in Norman French have what characteristics? B. How is this difference reflected in our usage of these words?
9. Give 3 examples of words that come from the Anglo Saxon and a synonym for those words that come from Norman French.
10. How does the English lexicon compare to the Russian or French lexicons?
11. Think about the information provided about the linguistic changes occurring during the Middle Ages. How are these changes significant in relation to Chaucer’s Canterbury Tales?