***The Wife of Bath’s Prologue* lines 235-378**

In this long section of the poem, the Wife acts out a scene of domestic “tribulacion”, dramatizing the “wo” of marriage. She asks the other pilgrims to “hekneth how I saide”.

**1) Lines 235 – 247**

Make a list of all the things the Wife accuses her husband of being or doing. What is the effect of all the questioning?

**2) Lines 247 – 270**

Present in modern English the things in these lines that she accuses her husband of saying against women.

**3) Lines 271 -307**

Present in modern English the things in these lines that she accuses her husband of continuing to say against women.

**4) Lines 308 – 336**

List the things in these lines that the Wife says her husband **should** do.

5) **Lines 337 – 378**

Complete the list of the things in these lines that the Wife accuses her husband of saying to her.

What effect does the Wife’s lengthy ‘dramatization’ have in terms of the idea of her character?

What does it convey about what it was like to live with the Wife and how does this ‘performance’ reinforce prejudice and stereotypes about wives in Chaucer’s patriarchal society?

Think about the significance of the fact that the Wife ends her extended dramatization of domesticity by saying on line 382 that “al was fals”?