***The Wife of Bath’s Tale***

**(Opening lines 857-898)**

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| --- | --- | --- |
| rede – know/ advise/ discover  limitour – type of friar  boure - bedroom | thropes – villages  bernes – barns  shipnes – stables  undermeles – afternoons | saufly –safely  maugre hir heed – despite all her efforts |

What do you think is the significance of the Wife starting the Tale with a traditional tale of fairies and folklore?

What is the significance of her digressing to talk about friars and how does this reflect the way she presents herself in the *Prologue*.

What is the significance of the depiction of the rape and the differing attitudes of the law and of the women of the court? How might this reflect the Wife’s own attitudes in the *Prologue*?