Canterbury Tales Reading Assignment

Geoffrey Chaucer used a pilgrimage to Canterbury as the framework for his collection of stories, The Canterbury Tales. In the General Prologue to the tales, Chaucer describes the pilgrims, who represent all classes of English society of the 1300s. For example, the plowman, parson, and knight represent the workers, clergy, & aristocracy. The physician, merchant, and others represent the middle class. At the beginning of each tale, Chaucer gives a detailed description of the different viewpoints on the medieval world.

* Choose one of the characters and read the prologue to your chosen character’s tale in a literature book. From there, write a brief description of the character, indicating which aspect of life in the Middle Ages he or she represents