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The **Teaching Copy** includes all items listed under **Student Versions** below, and has the following additional sections on pages i-ix:

- o A full account of the Classroom Collection and its many options
- o Strategies for using the Workbook
- o A section on the universality of the poem and the 'modernity' of some of the issues it raises, with a list of discussion topics
- o Useful Internet Resources

The section on **Assessment** (common to the Teaching Copy and all Student Versions) is particularly useful for students and teachers working towards external examinations (IB, AP, GCE A Level).

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THE SAMPLE SECTION BEGINS ON THE NEXT PAGE

SAMPLE SECTION

The Shipman

'woning far by West':
who dwelt far to the West
(of England)

A Shipman was there, woning far by Weste: 390

There was a Shipman from the West Country:

Dartmouth: known as a
place where disreputable
men were to be found

For ought I woot, he was of Dartemouthe.

He might even have been from Dartmouth.

'rouncy': hack, nag (poor
quality horse)

He rode upon a rouncey, as he couthe,

He rode on a nag, as well as he could,

'faldinge': woollen cloth,
serviceable but coarse and
plain

In a gown of faldinge to the knee.

In a coarse wool gown down to his knees.

'lace': lanyard – a
common means of
carrying such things for a
sailor

A daggere hanging by a lace hadde he

He had a dagger on a lanyard

Aboute his necke under his arm adown; 395

Around his neck, hanging down beneath his arm.

The hote summer had made his hewe all brown;

The hot summer had turned his skin brown;

And certainly he was a good felawe.

And without doubt he was a good chap.

'draughte...y-drawe': see
Comment

Full many a draughte of wine he had y-drawe

He had taken many a draught of wine

Bordeaux: a wine-
producing area of
France; 'chapman':

From Bourdeaux-ward, while that the chapman sleep.

From Bordeaux, while the merchant slept.

Comment [W1]: Action What does this phrase suggest, once more, about Chaucer's role as Narrator?

That he has inserted himself into the poem as one of the Pilgrims and so chosen to limit his understanding (the storyteller's traditional 'omniscience', his full knowledge of all facts).

Compare the comments on lines 38 and 155.

Comment [W2]: Character 'As well as he could' - suggesting what? That he is not at home on a horse, and perhaps not on land either.

Comment [W3]: Character In contrast to the other daggers we have had described (do you remember where?) and suggesting that..

The Shipman keeps his out of sight, which would give him an advantage if he were attacked. Other daggers: lines 113, 359, 368.

Comment [W4]: Setting Character What is puzzling about this?

Winter has just passed.

What possible explanation can you think of?

The Shipman has travelled so far abroad recently that he has encountered summer elsewhere.

Comment [W5]: Character Ideas See question under Character at the end of this section.

Comment [W6]: Style Character Explain the ambiguity of these two lines.

1. 'draughte' = cargo, y-drawe = carried, or

2. 'draughte' = drink, y-drawe = drawn (from the barrels).

Once more Chaucer leaves us to select whichever meaning we prefer (assuming we are careful enough readers or listeners to have identified more than one in the first place).

merchant
'nice': scrupulous, fussy

Of nice conscience took he no keep.

400

He paid no heed to matters of fine conscience.

Comment [W7]: **Character** Which of those two interpretations we choose (last note) will depend in part on whether we see this line as mainly following on from (and amplifying) the previous one, or as preparing us for the next (much more sinister) couplet. It could, of course, refer to... Both, thus acting as a bridge between them.

'higher': upper

If that he fought, and had the higher hand,

If he got the upper hand when he fought,

'them': his enemies' dead bodies

By water he sent them home to every land.

He sent his foes home by water, wherever they lived.

Comment [W8]: **Style** What is the tone of this line?
Darkly humorous.

But of his craft to rekene well his tides,

But in his skill in understanding the tides,

Comment [W9]: **Style** **Character** **Ideas** What is the force of the repeated 'his' (and 'him') in this and the next two lines?
They personalise the Shipman's expertise. The seamanship of the time could not depend on charts, compasses and almanacs, and the safety of a ship therefore rested much more squarely on the skill of individual captains.

'streames': currents;
'strandes': shorelines;
'him besides': close by

His streames and his strandes him besides,

His currents, his shorelines when they were nearby,

His knowledge of harbours etc...

His herberow, his moone, and lodemanage,

405

His harbours, his moon's phases, and piloting skills,

There was none such, from Hull unto Carthage.

No-one could match him, from Hull to Carthage.

'wise to undertake': careful in what he attempted

Hardy he was, and wise to undertake:

He was tough, and careful in what he attempted:

With many a tempest had his beard been shake.

His beard had been shaken by many a storm.

Comment [W10]: **Character** **Setting** What's the logical connection between this and the previous line?
He has learned caution (was 'wise') through his experiences with major storms. What does mention of the shaking of his beard add?
More of the personalisation identified in the previous note: this has been a matter between him and the tempests he has lived through.
The world is seen here as...
A dangerous place for travellers.

He knew well all the havenes, as they were,

He knew all the havens, in their various locations,

From Gotland to the Cape of Finisterre,

410

From Gotland to the Cape of Finisterre,

Comment [W11]: **Character** **Ideas** The emphasis in these closing lines of the portrait is on the Shipman's.....
Knowledge, which supports the skills Chaucer makes much of in lines 404-406.
Chaucer consistently approves of expertise in his pilgrims, even when it is used for questionable purposes.

'creek': inlet; 'Bretagne':
Brittany

And every creek in Bretagne and in Spaine.

And every inlet in Brittany and Spain.

'barge': ship

His barge y-cleped was the Maudelaine.

His ship was called the Madeleine.

THE SAMPLE SECTION CONTINUES ON THE NEXT PAGE

Setting Chaucer's audience was largely London-based. How do we gather from the internal evidence of this portrait that they would have regarded the Shipman as both an exotic and a daunting figure?

Even Chaucer the Pilgrim treats him with some suspicion: 'For ought I woot, he was [from as far away as] Dartemouthe' - a dim and distant region, almost a foreign place, like the sea itself, in fact, which Londoners would not commonly have seen, let alone embarked upon. They would probably have been impressed by the mysterious skills of his seamanship. His concealed dagger, however, his willingness to seize dishonest opportunity (the wine) and behave ruthlessly when he has an advantage (line 401), would have made him seem somewhat fearsome and piratical. His sunburnt face (in contrast to the winter-white faces of most of the pilgrims) would have added to his strangeness.

Character What do you think Chaucer is saying when he describes the Shipman as 'a good felawe' (line 397)?

On the face of it he is describing him very positively, as a hale and hearty seafarer, willing to share his experiences with the travelling company and play a full part in the life of the group - a man's man like the Monk, capable of matching the Yeoman for calm expertise, the Sergeant at Law for knowledge of his profession and the Knight for dedication and a sense of adventure. 'A good felawe', however, also implies some rascality: the Shipman can be 'one of the boys' even when 'the boys' are up to no good.

Action How do you imagine the other pilgrims treat the Shipman, on the journey?

Warily.

Style What use does Chaucer make of place-names in this portrait?

He employs them to support the impressions discussed under Setting above.

Ideas What moral dilemma does Chaucer acknowledge in this passage?

That people are sometimes forced to live by different moral standards. A captain of the time who had defeated a foe at sea could not afford to take the enemy crew on board for a long voyage home. It is quite easy to argue from examples like this that Chaucer maintains a balanced and realistic attitude towards his characters and their morality.

END OF SAMPLE SECTION