

Literary Analysis

EXEMPLUM

An **exemplum** is a short anecdote that illustrates a moral point. During the Middle Ages, this literary form was often used in sermons.

Directions: For each convention of medieval exemplum listed in the chart, provide an example from “The Pardoner’s Tale.”

Conventions of Medieval Exemplum	Examples
virtuous or evil characters	
tightly-structured plot events	
allegorical or symbolic figures	
a distinct moral or lesson	