

Reading Skill

ANALYZE STRUCTURE

The Canterbury Tales has a sophisticated **structure**, or organization. It features a **frame story**, the story of the pilgrims’ journey, which surrounds and binds together the stories the pilgrims tell themselves. Sometimes the frame story interrupts the pilgrims’ tales. Sometimes characters or the narrator interrupts the tales.

Directions: As you read “The Wife of Bath’s Tale,” look for interruptions in the narration. Record these interruptions and tell why you think they occur. An example has been done for you.

Interruptions	Reasons
The Pardoner interrupts the Wife of Bath. (lines 2–6)	The previous discussion has made him afraid to marry.