

**"The Wife of Bath's Tale" from The Canterbury Tales** by Geoffrey Chaucer

**Vocabulary Builder**

p136

**Using Multiple-Meaning Words**

**A. DIRECTIONS:** *The italicized words in these lines from "The Wife of Bath's Tale" each can have more than one meaning. Use the context to determine which of the two possible meanings applies to the lines from the selection, and circle that meaning. Then, on the line provided, write a sentence illustrating the other meaning of the word.*

1. Ovid *relates* that under his long hair / The unhappy Midas grew a splendid pair / Of ass's ears.

Possible Meanings: shows a connection    narrates

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2. He begged her not to tell a living creature / That he possessed so horrible a *feature*:

Possible Meanings: any part of the face    a special newspaper or magazine story

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3. There wasn't a living creature to be seen / Save on old woman sitting on the *green*

Possible Meanings: a color blending yellow and blue    an expanse of grass or plants

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4. It was such torture that his wife looked *foul*.

Possible Meanings: disgusting    hit out of bounds

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**Using the Word List**

implored	misalliance	bequeath	esteemed
relates	contemptuous	prowess	rebuke

**B. DIRECTIONS:** *Use your knowledge of the Word List to decide whether each statement below is true or false. Then, on the line before the statement, write T if it is true and F if it is false.*

- \_\_\_ 1. Someone who skates with *prowess* often falls flat on her face.
- \_\_\_ 2. A smile is a *contemptuous* expression.
- \_\_\_ 3. A storyteller *relates* a story.
- \_\_\_ 4. People sometimes *bequeath* property to their heirs.
- \_\_\_ 5. Most people enjoy having someone *rebuke* them.
- \_\_\_ 6. The king and queen will be overjoyed if their son makes a *misalliance*.
- \_\_\_ 7. If someone *implored* you to leave, they would not want you to move.
- \_\_\_ 8. People often stand up when an *esteemed* figure enters the room.