The General Prologue

The Franklin interrupts the Squire’s tale, complimenting him on his eloquence, gentility, and courtesy. The Squire does not question why the Franklin interrupted him because the Franklin is in a higher social class than he is, as well as an elder. He states that he wishes his son was more like the Franklin. His son spends his time in reckless gambling with worthless youths. The host tells the Franklin that he is not interested in the Franklin’s son and states that everyone needs to tell a tale and to get on with his tale.
The Franklin

A wealthy landowner and a member of the nobility. His role is to provide generous hospitality, and nobody fulfills this role better than the Franklin. His kitchen is always stocked with food and wine and his cooks are always prepared to provide a meal at any moment. Also, unlike most noble hosts, the Franklin always keeps his tables ready at all times. He enjoys eating and drinking wine and also providing pleasure to others through his generous hospitality. He also engages in public service as “the knight of shire”, which is an advisor at parliamentary sessions. He has also served as a sheriff and tax auditor. The Franklin is a great representative of his social class because of his generous hospitality and cheerful temperate.
Dorigen

Dorigen is the emotionally weak wife of Averagus. She is a common reflection of woman of that era, which is very beautiful but incapable of being mentally strong. Dorigen is in love with Averagus but her lack of intelligence and joking attitude create an unintended proposal with Aurelius, while her husband is gone in England. Becoming filled with sadness and grief she must admit what she has done, hurting the one she truly loves. The couples love is restored by Averagus’ nobility and Aurelius’ kindness and the couple live happily together.
Averagus

Averagus- A brave and noble knight, who marries a young woman named Dorigen. However, the brave knight Averagus, must go to England on duty for two years separating the newly married couple physically and emotionally. Returning home after serving his time in England, he discovers from Dorigen of how she jokingly said she would fall in love with Aurelius. As much as that emotionally destroys Averagus, he remains noble and tells Dorigen she must fulfill her promise. Aurelius hears of Averagus’ nobility and tells Dorigen she can return to her husband and restore their love.
Averagus and Dorigen’s Marriage

Dorigen and Arveragus have a marriage built on equality between them, an unheard of concept in Medieval Europe and England. They keep this equal agreement between them a secret because it is an unnatural thing to do during their time. Averagus makes decisions in public to hide their secret. They have a great marriage filled with love and respect for one another. Averagus goes abroad to seek fortunes and Dorigen remains at home, where she is love sick and miserable awaiting the arrival of Averagus.
Aurelius

A young squire who is lovesick for Dorigen. He has loved her for a very long time and he approaches her while Averagus is away. He reveals his deep love for her but she already loves her husband and would do nothing to harm her marriage; however, she makes a rash and joking promise to be his wife if he can make the black coastal rocks disappear. This is an impossible task by any human because of the large mass of the rocks.
Dorigen and Averagus decide to have an equal marriage.
Averagus goes on a quest to England and Dorigen is miserable until he returns.
While Averagus is gone, Aurelius conveys his deep love for Dorigen.
Dorigen wants no one but Averagus but jokingly promises to be his wife if he clears all the black rocks off the coast, which is an impossible task.
Averagus returns and Dorigen is very happy.
Aurelius pays a magician to clear to black rocks and he tells Dorigen.
Dorigen tells Averagus the whole story and he says that she must keep her promise and she must be with Aurelius.
Aurelius sees Averagus and Dorigen have real love and tells her to be with Averagus.
The magician sees his noble deed and clears all of his debts.
Lesson Learned

One noble deed performed will lead to another, and then another. In this way, good overcomes evil. Dorigen and Averagus decision for Dorigen to keep her promise to Aurelius led to Aurelius respecting the true love between the couple and allowing the two to stay together. This act lead to the magician realizing Aurelius was a noble man and extinguishing all of Aurelius’ debt.
Thematic Points

True love and commitment will prevail in the end.
The definition of honor.
Noble deeds will lead to more noble deeds.
Good things happen to good people.
Before he begins his tale, the Franklin associates high social class with behaving as aristocrats should, which is with courtesy, compassion, generosity and a keen sense of justice. But he then includes the clerk in his question about generosity, which basically eliminates social class. This reflects Chaucer’s view that a person’s place in social hierarchy has nothing to do with how good a person’s virtues are or the success that one achieves throughout their lives.
The Franklin states that he is only a plain man and that he is not a skilled writer, so he is not skilled at using literary devices; however he does use a few throughout his tale.

*Devices-Metaphors, Personification, Allusions

*Effects- Simplifies the reading and makes the text more interesting for the reader, while adding complexity to the plot.
Im not sure if you could for sure say that Chaucer liked the Franklin; however, it is very evident that he respects the Franklin’s position in society. Chaucer states that "was nowher swich a worthy vavasour" (General Prologue 362).

- Chaucer is conveying that the Franklin is the best at what he what he does, which is providing generous hospitality to anyone who needs it in the community.