



Oregon
Shakespeare
Festival.

2017 Study Guide



Coat of Arms King Henry IV and V of England

Henry IV, Part One by William Shakespeare

Henry IV, Part One ends in 1403 at the battle of Shrewsbury. Although the play does not mention it, Prince Hal was seriously wounded at the beginning of the battle by an arrow that embedded in his cheekbone under his eye. The arrow shaft was cut off, but Hal fought the entire battle with the arrow embedded in his skull. After the battle the arrow was extracted by a doctor named John Bradmore in a first-of-its kind operation. Bradmore used tongs to put a screw into the socket of the arrow and slowly work it out. He also kept cleaning the wound during and after the operation with a mixture that included honey. Modern medical experts credit the honey with keeping the wound from becoming infected and with saving the prince's life.

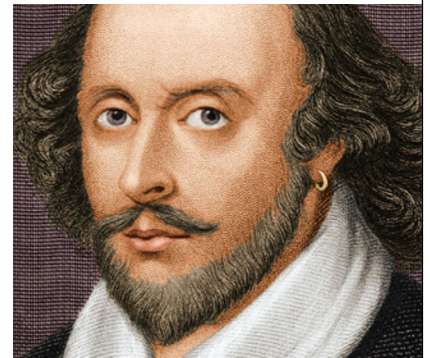
Dr. Bradmore wrote a detailed account of the operation, in which he said the wound was on the left side. However, subsequent portraits of Henry are always in profile showing the unscarred left side of his face. This has led many scholars to conclude that Dr. Bradmore meant his left side as he was facing Hal to operate, and that the prince must have lived the rest of his life with a prominent scar on the right, unportraited, side of his face.



King Henry IV
National Portrait Gallery, London

KING HENRY IV

- Born at Bolingbroke Castle in April, 1367.
- His father, John of Gaunt, married into the Lancaster fortune, making him one of the wealthiest men in England. Henry should have inherited when John of Gaunt died. However...
- Henry's cousin, King Richard II, banished Henry from England and confiscated his entire inheritance.
- Henry responded by gathering an army of nobles loyal to him and usurped the throne, forcing King Richard to abdicate. Henry was crowned King on October 13, 1399.
- Henry died on March 20, 1413. He is buried behind the high altar of Canterbury Cathedral.



William Shakespeare

WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE

- Born around April 23, 1564.
- Married Anne Hathaway at the age of 18. They had three children between 1583 and 1585.
- Became an actor and playwright for the Lord Chamberlain's Men, which became the King's Men when King James I was crowned in 1603. Wrote 37 plays, 2 epic poems and 154 sonnets over a 25-year career.
- *Henry IV, Part One* was written in 1598.
- Died in his hometown of Stratford-upon-Avon on April 23, 1616.
- Buried in Stratford's Holy Trinity Church.

Before seeing/reading the play

1. Research the political events in England at the time Shakespeare wrote *Henry IV, Part One* (1590s). Pay special attention to the reign of Queen Elizabeth, legitimate succession to the throne and rebellion. These and other websites provide information:

<http://www.tudorhistory.org/elizabeth/queen.html>
<http://faculty.history.wisc.edu/sommerville/361/361-14.htm>
http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Robert_Devereux,_2nd_Earl_of_Essex

2. Research the background and history of English succession from Edward III to Henry IV. How did King Henry IV obtain his rule? These and other websites provide information:

http://www.historymedren.about.com/od/hwho/p/who_henry4.htm
<http://www.britroyals.com/plantagenet.htm>

3. Research Edmund Mortimer, 5th Earl of March, and how he fits into the English line of succession. This and other websites provide information:

<http://www.shakespeareandhistory.com/edmund-mortimer-henry-vi.php>

4. Research Owen Glendower (Owain Glyndwr). Pay particular attention to his association with poetry, magic and Welsh pride. Notice also his relationship to English culture. This and other websites provide information:

<http://www.nndb.com/people/292/000092016/>



Owen Glendower. From his Seal engraved in the Archelologia.

5. Research the Lord of Misrule, the Saturnalia Festival and the Feast of Fools. What was the Lord of Misrule responsible for during festivals and celebrations? What function did he serve? What happened to him at the end of the festivities? These and other websites provide information:

<http://www.ancient.eu/Saturnalia/>
<http://paganwiccan.about.com/od/yuletraditions/fl/The-Lord-of-Misrule.htm>

6. Research the Seven Deadly Sins and the stock character of Vice in medieval morality plays. What are Vice's villainous qualities? What are his or her comic qualities? Find examples of characters who embody either an aspect of Vice and/or one or more of the Seven Deadly Sins in Shakespeare's

plays, as well as novels, films, TV shows, video games and graphic novels. These and other websites provide information:

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Vice_\(character\)](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Vice_(character))
<http://450shakespeare.blogspot.com/2005/10/greenblatt-on-morality-plays-and-their.html>

7. What are the definitions of honor? Define honor in terms that have meaning for you. How highly do you value honor? Who are some people you perceive as being honorable, and why?

8. What qualities should a good king possess? Who were some good kings from history and literature? Which of their attributes made them good? How were these kings rewarded for being good? How were they punished? What qualities does a bad ruler possess? What are the consequences of bad kingship for the king? For the people he rules?

9. Research the monarchic system of government. What conditions are needed for a king to rule effectively? How much power did a monarch possess in Shakespeare's time? During the period in which *Henry IV, Part One* is set? Who in a monarchy other than the king holds power? How is a monarchy similar to a democratic system of government? How is it different? These and other websites provide information:

<http://elizabethi.org/contents/power/monarch.html>
<http://www.differencebetween.net/miscellaneous/politics/difference-between-monarchy-and-democracy/>
<https://www.britannica.com/place/United-Kingdom/Lancaster-and-York#ref482869>

10. Research the "divine right of kings." How did this right relate to the monarchic system of government? What is the relationship between a king and God? In light of this principle, how is rebellion against a king regarded? This and other websites provide information:

http://www.newworldencyclopedia.org/entry/Divine_Right_of_Kings

11. What is a crusade? What are the reasons people go on crusades? What were The Crusades historically? This and other websites provide information:

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Crusades>

12. Why are civil wars potentially more devastating than wars between nations? What is generally the cause of civil war? How do civil wars relate to power and rebellion?

Resources

Books:

Richard II, William Shakespeare
Shakespeare's English Kings, Peter Saccio
The Chronicles of England, Scotland and Ireland, Raphael Holinshed

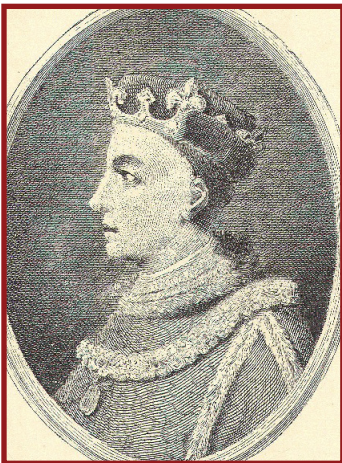
Learn more about Shakespeare's life and times at the following websites:

<http://internetshakespeare.uvic.ca/Library/SLT/index.html>

<http://www.folger.edu/template.cfm?cid=865&C-FID=6230886&CFTOKEN=25420173>
<http://www.shakespeare.org.uk/explore-shakespeare.html>
<http://www.bardweb.net/man.html>

After seeing/reading the play

1. Refer to your research on English succession from Edward III to Henry IV. What happened before *Henry IV, Part One* begins? What do you learn in the play of the events that took place in Shakespeare's play *Richard II*? What past occurrences haunt King Henry IV and the other characters?
2. One of the important relationship patterns in the play is father-child. Who are the fathers of Prince Hal and Hotspur? Who are their father-figures? Describe all these relationships. How do the fathers and father-figures provide role models for the children? How do they exert a positive influence on the younger generation? What are their negative influences? What traits have the fathers and father-figures passed along to their children? How do the younger characters disappoint their fathers and/or father figures? How do they make them proud? How do the fathers and/or father figures betray their children? What are the consequences?



Young Prince Hal



King Henry V
National Portrait Gallery, London

3. Shakespeare makes great use of the fact that Prince Hal and Hotspur both have the given name Henry, and are both called Harry. Compare and contrast Prince Hal and Hotspur. What themes is Shakespeare exploring by stressing their shared name? In what ways are these two similar? Different? How does the fact that Hotspur is a woman in this production affect the differences between the two, particularly in King Henry's eyes?
4. Identify the various social arrangements of the play (e.g., family, court). In each of these arrangements, who is the "leader"? How are the other members ranked in relation to them? What are the shared core values of each group?
5. Refer to your research on the divine right of kings. What causes the Percys to believe that their rebellion is justified? What are the consequences? In what ways does their cause

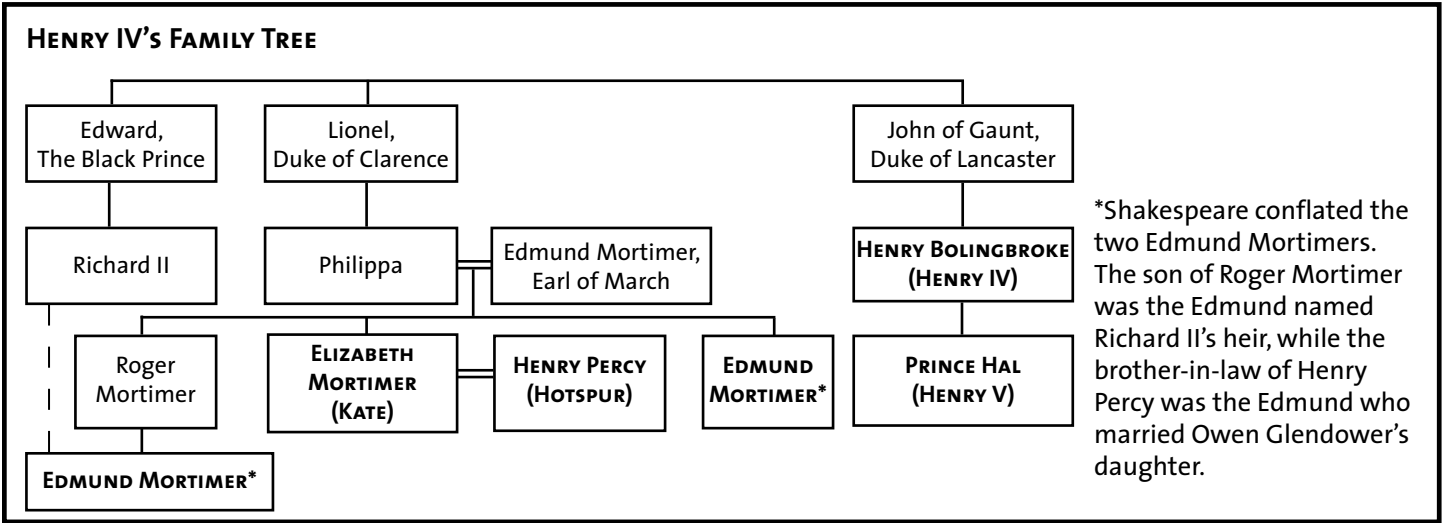
benefit the country? In what ways does it not?

6. How, according to King Henry, did he win the approval, respect and affection of the people? How does Hal seem to be going about the same task? What are the positive and negative impacts of each?
7. What does Hal learn about the people he will one day govern by spending his time at the Boar's Head Tavern? How is Hal a different person in the environment of Eastcheap as opposed to the environment of the court or the battlefield?
8. Refer to your research on the Lord of Misrule. What traits of this folk figure does Falstaff exhibit? Since the Lord of Misrule governs for only a short period, what clues are there in the text that indicate Falstaff's influence over Hal may not last? How does he help develop Hal's potential to become a good king?
9. Refer to your research on Vice and the Seven Deadly Sins. Which of the Sins does Falstaff embody? To what extent does he represent the villainous aspects of Vice? To what extent the comic aspects? What vices does he tempt Hal to embrace? How successful is he? What other characters embody one or more of the Seven Deadly Sins? How does each character contribute to Hal's journey?
10. Refer to your research on crusades. Why does King Henry IV want to go on a crusade to free Jerusalem at the beginning of the play? What does he hope to gain?
11. How do the following define honor: King Henry, Hal, Falstaff, Hotspur? How does each believe honor is acquired? To what extent does each link honor with violence? Where does honor rank in each individual's hierarchy of values? If you are also seeing *Julius Caesar*, contrast the way honor is thought of in that play with the way it is thought of in *Henry IV, Part One*. What major points are made about honor in each play, and by whom?

What themes are highlighted in our 2017 production? How does the setting and style of the production inform your understanding of *Henry IV, Part One*?



HENRY IV PART ONE
KING'S PALACE



After seeing/reading the play continued

12. What is Hal's plan, as stated in his first soliloquy (Act I, scene ii)? How does his plan change when he confronts his father (Act III, scene ii)? What new information does he receive to account for the change? In what ways does Hal mature through the course of the play?

13. What acts of rebellion occur in the play? Who rebels against whom? In what ways are these rebellions positive or justified? In what ways negative or unjustified? What are the consequences of these rebellions?

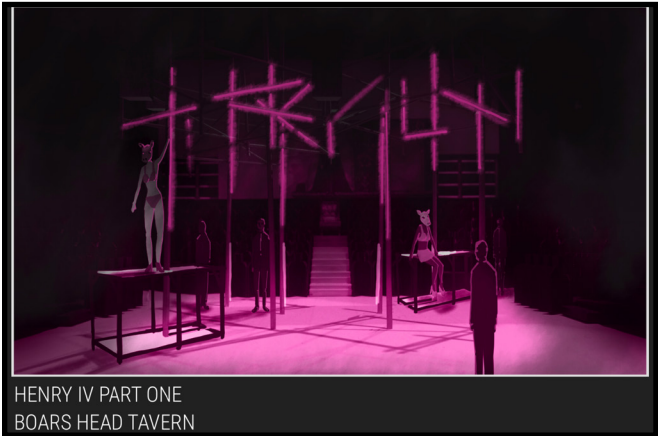
14. How does Shakespeare set us up for *Henry IV, Part Two*? What pieces of the story are left unfinished at the end of the play?



Lord Henry Percy also known as Harry Hotspur

Historically, Hotspur was not a young man during these events, he was actually three years older than Henry IV. Shakespeare would have known this, and consciously chose to change Hotspur's age so as to heighten the dramatic contrast between Hotspur and Prince Hal.

Shakespeare has also confused two different Edmund Mortimers, turning them into one character. Historically, they were uncle and nephew. The younger Edmund, who had been named as Richard II's heir, was only eight years old when Henry IV usurped the throne. His uncle is the Edmund Mortimer who led Henry's army against the Welsh and married Owen Glendower's daughter. Shakespeare probably didn't know that he was making this mistake, because the history books that he got the story from had already confused and conflated the two men.



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