

Henry the Fourth Parts 1 & 2

by William Shakespeare

*A Shakespeare In The Ruins
Study Guide*

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Introduction

"Meet Hal: a typical youth caught between the pressures of an overbearing parent, the lure of his mischievous mates (led by the irrepressible rogue Falstaff), and the call of war. Oh yeah: he also happens to be the next heir to the throne of England." (SIR early PR)

This spring, Shakespeare InThe Ruins presents the second part of the "Falstaff trilogy". It began last year with *The Merry Wives of Windsor*, which though not the first written, is the play in which, chronologically, Falstaff first appears. This year, director Chris Sigurdson has combined the scripts of both *Henry IV Part 1* and *Part 2* for a trim two-hour production which is set in Elizabethan times and not modernized.

This is the story of how Prince Harry, son of King Henry IV, grows from a reckless teenager into a mature young man who is ready to take his dying father's place on the throne. It is also, however, a showcase for that robust scoundrel, Falstaff.

First appearing in the two *Henry IV* plays, Falstaff became famous in Shakespeare's lifetime and is considered by many to be one of Shakespeare's greatest character creations. Interestingly, Falstaff's history dates back to the original Queen's Men's play, *Henry IV, Part 1* (1596), when he was called Sir John Oldcastle (Wood 207).

Queen Elizabeth was a great fan of Sir John Falstaff and after his first appearance in *Henry IV* (1596), she gave Shakespeare about two weeks to write a play "showing Falstaff in love" (Greenblatt 222). The result was the very silly *The Merry Wives of Windsor*.

Even today, Falstaff has many admirers, for he has a "great wit and the ability to provoke wit in others; spectacular resilience; fierce, subversive intelligence; carnivalesque exuberance" (Greenblatt 222). In Falstaff, "the life force is at work to an unparalleled degree" (221). He may be a "rogue" as well as "a braggart and a liar", but he is also "life incarnate" (Wood 211).

Whether you saw last year's production or not, you are in for a treat as Falstaff and his pal, Hal, hit the stage in beautiful Assiniboine Park. The new tent assures that even if the weather doesn't cooperate, we'll all have a great time!

See you there!

Pamela Lockman for Shakespeare In The Ruins (May 2011)

Bloom, Harold. *Shakespeare: The Invention of the Human*. Riverhead Books. NY: 1998.
Greenblatt, Stephen. *Will in the World: How Shakespeare Became Shakespeare*. W. W. Norton and Company, Inc. NY: 2004.
Wood, Michael. *Shakespeare*. Perseus Books Group. BBC Worldwide, Ltd., Britain: 2003.

Dramatis Personæ

- **King Henry the Fourth** of England (aka "Bolingbroke" and "Lancaster")
- **Prince Henry**, eldest son of Henry IV (aka "Hal" or "Harry")
- **Earl of Worcester** (leader of the rebel cause against the King)
- **Earl of Westmorland** (loyal to the King)
- **Sir Walter Blunt** (loyal to the King)
- **Hotspur**, nephew to Worcester (aka "Henry Percy")
- **Sir John Falstaff**
- **Poins**, a companion of Prince Hal (aka "Ned")
- **Mistress Quickly**, hostess of a tavern
- **Rumour** (mythical creature of exposition)
- **Page** to Falstaff
- **Pistol** friend to Falstaff
- **Doll Tearsheet**, a prostitute
- **Snare**, a Sergeant
- **Fang**, a Sergeant
- **Shallow**, country justice
- **Silence**, country justice
- **Ralph Mouldy, Thomas Wart, Francis Feeble**, (army recruits)

Synopsis

King Henry the Fourth Parts 1 and 2 (borrowed and edited from absoluteshakespeare.com)

The First Part of King Henry the Fourth

King Henry IV, Part I, picks up where Richard II left off; Henry IV is now King of England, but all is not well in his kingdom. Welsh leader Owen Glendower has defeated one of King Henry IV's armies, capturing Edmund Mortimer, its leader. Unfortunately, our King does not have a proper son to take over the reins; his only son, (the future) Henry V, known as Hal, shirks responsibility, preferring to waste away his youth drinking, partying and getting into trouble with his rogue friends, in particular, a certain John Falstaff and his friend Poins. He even takes part in the robbery of travellers! If only the King could swap sons with the Percys, with whom he's fighting. Hotspur, the son of Henry Percy, Earl of Northumberland, is by all accounts a brave, courageous soldier. In an important soliloquy, Hal reveals that though he has been keeping bad company, he will soon show his true colors at the right time.

Meanwhile the King punishes the Earl of Worcester and Hotspur for forgetting their obligations to their King. Hotspur and his uncle gladly offer the prisoners from a Scottish campaign, arguing their refusal to do so was all a misunderstanding. The King disagrees, believing Hotspur wanted to use the prisoners to force the King to pay the ransom of Lord Mortimer, his brother-in-law. The King will not do this because Lord Mortimer betrayed his forces by marrying the daughter of Glendower, his enemy on the battlefield! Hotspur is ordered to hand over the prisoners but refuses.

Worcester suggests a plan to deal with the King (the Percy Rebellion), which involves the Percies, Douglas, Glendower and the Archbishop of York siding against the King. Hotspur hands over the prisoners to buy time. The rebels, however, quickly begin to argue over how they will divide the spoils of England. Hotspurs' father, the Earl of Northumberland (Henry Percy), falls ill. This hurts the rebellion before it even begins because his forces are no longer available, and Glendower is late gathering his own forces. Meanwhile, the King has words with his wayward son, Hal, who is becoming more and more determined to earn his father's respect in the forthcoming battle.

The King has also been busy raising a large army. Hotspur, learning this as well as the fact that Hal will fight beside the King ever courageously, tries to find silver

linings in an ever darkening cloud. Like Julius Caesar, the two sides exchange words before battle. The King, hoping to avoid a bloody fight, offers a pardon to the rebels. Worcester, representing an absent Hotspur, does not believe this grand offer, and chooses to lie to Hotspur that the King is resolute in wanting war. The rebels are completely beaten in the battle that follows. Hal even gains honour on the battlefield by killing Hotspur, a man many thought would be the stronger of the two in battle. This action saves his father, the King, earning Hal the respect he so desperately wanted. Falstaff, recruited into a battle he wanted no part in, somehow manages to survive the massacre on the battlefield by pretending to be dead. Later he tries to gain his own glory by claiming Hotspurs' death for himself! Hal graciously lets Falstaff keep this unearned glory. The rebels, Worcester and Sir Richard Vernon, are executed; Douglas is set free. However, not all the rebels have been defeated...

http://absoluteshakespeare.com/plays/henry_IV_1/henry_IV_1.htm

The Second Part of King Henry the Fourth

King Henry IV, Part 2, follows from the action of Part One. Three years have passed since the Percy rebellion was crushed and the Earl of Northumberland's son, Hotspur, died at the battle of Shrewsbury. Not all the rebels have been brought to justice; however, the King appoints Westmoreland and Lancaster to lead an army to finish them off. Richard Scroop, the Archbishop of York, one of the remaining rebels, supports Lord Hastings, Lord Mowbray, and Lord Bardolph in a new rebellion. Northumberland, who has already lost his son, Hotspur, supports them only distantly. This support soon vanishes as Northumberland's wife and Hotspur's widow blame him for abandoning Hotspur at Shrewsbury, even though Northumberland was sick. Lady Grey convinces Northumberland to leave the rebels and to hide in Scotland.

Meanwhile, Falstaff has returned to form, frequenting the Boar's Head Inn. Hal rejoins his old friend who, with his huge appetite, is driving Mistress Quickly rapidly out of business. However, this fun is soon over as the King, now suffering illness, summons both to fight once more. Falstaff, who in his last battle recruited poor soldiers, is tasked with recruiting soldiers once again for the King of England's army. Unsurprisingly, the lazy Falstaff ends up keeping company in Gloucestershire with Justice Shallow, whom he quickly takes advantage of financially. Falstaff corruptly allows his soldiers to pay their way out of their service to the King of England. We learn from the Chief Justice in London that Hal is distancing himself from Falstaff by having him accompany his brother,

Prince John of Lancaster.

In London, Henry IV once more vows to finally set forth on his much delayed religious crusade, but only if the rebellion is suppressed. The King, however, is far from happy that his heir to the throne, Hal, is still associating with petty criminals (Falstaff and company). Meanwhile, the growing rebel threat results in the King sending his second son, Prince John of Lancaster, to speak with Scroop representing the rebels. Prince John agrees to meet the rebels' demands only if they first disband their army. Acting in good faith, the rebels agree only to have Prince John's intact army capture Scroop and the other Lords, who are all executed.

Hal, finding the King asleep when he arrives, takes his crown and tries it on. Caught in the act, his father accuses Hal of wanting him dead. Hal claims that he thought his father dead already, and just wanted to protect the crown. The King, now facing death, finally makes peace with Hal, telling him he does believe he will be fit to rule the kingdom. Before he dies, the King tells Hal to fight foreign wars to secure his popularity and to occupy his people. Hal becomes the new King of England. Hearing this, Falstaff believes he has a friend in the highest place in the land, and immediately departs for London. As King of England, the "old Hal" whom Falstaff remembers no longer exists. At his coronation, Hal, now King Henry V, bans his old friends from anywhere within ten miles; any closer and they will all be put to death. Hal is now the true King of England.

http://absoluteshakespeare.com/plays/henry_IV_2/henry_IV_2.htm

Timeline

Source: Timeref.com

- 1367 Mar [Henry \(IV\) future king of England in born](#)
Henry was born at Bolingbroke Castle in Lincolnshire.
- 1387 Apr [Future Henry V born](#)
It is believed that Henry, the future king of England Henry V, was born at the gatehouse tower of Monmouth castle in late summer. His father was Henry Bolingbroke the future Henry IV king of England and his mother was Mary de Bohun. Mary was seventeen when Henry was born.¹
- Dec [Invasion threat from France](#)
During the winter months of 1387 and spring months of 1388, Henry Bolingbroke prepared defences along the south coast.¹
- 1398 Sep 16 [Bolingbroke exiled](#)
Richard II had executed or exiled other members of the Lords Appellant the previous year and now Bolingbroke and Thomas Mowbray were concerned that their turn was next. Mowbray confided these concerns with Bolingbroke. Bolingbroke informed the King of Mowbray's treasonable words and Mowbray was arrested. Mowbray denied the accusations and that he ever talked to Bolingbroke. To bring the dispute to an end, a duel between Bolingbroke and Mowbray was arranged. But before the duel took place Richard changed his mind and banished Bolingbroke for ten years and Mowbray for life.¹
- 1399 [Treasure found at Beeston Castle](#)
In this year Beeson Castle, which had belonged to Richard II, was handed over to Henry IV. In the castle a hoard of Richard's treasure was found.
- Mar [Bolingbroke's land confiscated](#)
Bolingbroke should have inherited the lands from his father, John of Gaunt, but Richard had other ideas. The king confiscated Bolingbroke's inheritance and increased his term of exile to life.¹
- Jul [Bolingbroke returns to England](#)
Landing at Ravenspur in Yorkshire, Bolingbroke returned to England intent to taking the throne from Richard. He marched south to Bristol taking control of Lancastrian castles on route, all of which welcomed his return.¹
- Sep [Bolingbroke accepted by Parliament](#)

Parliament accepted Bolingbroke's claim to the throne. He was to become Henry IV, king of England.¹

Oct 13 [Henry IV becomes king](#)

Henry IV is crowned king of England after the abdication of Richard II.

Oct 15 [A new Prince of Wales](#)

Bolingbroke's son Henry, Prince of Monmouth, was made Prince of Wales. The Prince was not the true heir to the English throne as this honour fell to the young Earl of March, but Henry would become Henry V, king of England.¹

1400 Jan [A plot to kill the new King](#)

Supporters of Richard II planned to attack King Henry during a tournament held over Christmas at Windsor Castle. The plot was betrayed by Edward, Earl of Rutland, son of the Duke of York. Henry and his family escaped to London, and by the time the king returned to Windsor with an army, the rebels had been dealt with by local people.¹

Aug [Henry invades Scotland](#)

To stop the Scots raiding the northern borders of England Henry took an army into Scotland. The Scottish king Robert III did not concede defeat and Henry had to resort to minor raids of his own without any real outcome for either side.¹

Aug [Glendower's revolt starts](#)

What started as a land dispute between Owen Glendower, a wealthy land owner in Wales and his rival Lord Grey of Rutin quickly escalated to a revolt when the English King Henry IV sided with Rutin and awarded him the land.¹

Oct [Henry fights back against Glendower](#)

Henry IV moved into North Wales to try and stop the rebellion but he was not able to deal with the Welsh rebels who were more skilled at fighting in the terrain.¹

1401 [Hotspur takes control in North Wales](#)

Henry IV gave his son Prince Henry, the future Henry V, the task of defeating Glendower in North Wales. As the boy was only 13 years old, Hotspur a knight and jousting champion was given the role of guardian over the Prince. Hotspur was the son of Henry Percy the Earl of Northumberland.¹

De heretico comburendo

The statute called De heretico comburendo was passed by Henry IV allowing heretics to be burnt at the stake. It was forbidden for anyone to translate the Bible into English and illegal to own a copy.²

Jun Hotspur resigns

After accusing the king of not paying his army, Hotspur resigned his guardianship of the king's son in North Wales and he left to resume fighting the Scots.¹

1402 Henry IV assembles an army

The king assembled an army at Shrewsbury Castle in preparation to fight Owen Glendower.³

Jun 22 Battle of Pilleth

Edmund Mortimer's army met Owen Glendower at Pilleth near Whitton in central Wales. Mortimer's army was badly defeated and Mortimer was captured. Glendower offered to release Mortimer for a large ransom, but Henry IV refused to pay.

1403 Revolt of the Percies

The Percies, led by the Earl of Northumberland and Hotspur announced their intent to revolt against Henry IV. They even promised to free the Scots they had captured at the battle of Homildon if the Scots assisted in the revolt. The plan was to join forces with Owen Glendower and support the claim of the young Edmund Mortimer 5th Earl of March to the English throne.

Jul 21 Battle of Shrewsbury

Henry IV managed to reach Shrewsbury just before Hotspur arrived and the rebel army had to camp outside the town to the north. The battle lasted all day but it ended when Hotspur was killed.

Aug Earl of Northumberland surrenders

Henry Percy, Earl of Northumberland (Hotspur's father) had not managed to reach Shrewsbury in time to save his son. The Earl surrendered to the King, who accepted and showed the Earl mercy.

1404 May Glendower's Parliament

Owen Glendower called a Parliament where he declared himself to be the true 'Prince of Wales'. Embassies from France and Scotland attended the meeting and gave promises to support Glendower's plans to overthrow Henry IV.

1405 Apr Scrope's revolt

Richard Scrope colluded with the Earl of Northumberland to overthrow Henry IV. Scrope was the Archbishop of York.

May [Scrope executed](#)

The Archbishop's revolt was crushed with the aid of the Nevilles and the king had him executed.

1408 Winter [Henry IV very ill](#)

The King's mysterious illness had resurfaced and he was extremely ill and close to death. Prince Henry was temporarily put in control of the country.

1413 Mar
20 [Henry IV dies](#)

Henry IV died in the Palace of Westminster. The mysterious disease he had suffered from for many years had taken its toll. Prince Henry accepted the crown and claimed it. The Earl of March now old enough to rule still had a very good claim of his own.

Additional Background

Falstaff and Queen Elizabeth I

Shakespeare ends *Henry IV, Part II* (1598) unsure of the future of the jolly Sir John Falstaff:

If you be not too
much cloyed with fat meat, our humble author will
continue the story, with Sir John in it, and make
you merry with fair Katharine of France: where, for
any thing I know, Falstaff shall die of a sweat,
unless already a' be killed with your hard
opinions (5.5.137-43)

However, very shortly after the completion of *Henry IV, Part II*, Shakespeare wrote *The Merry Wives of Windsor* (1599), featuring the errant knight in the starring role. What prompted Shakespeare to resurrect Falstaff so soon? Two independent sources confirm that Shakespeare revived Falstaff at the insistence of Queen Elizabeth I, who had been delighted by Falstaff's presence in the *Henry IV* plays. John Dennis, a literary critic who adapted *The Merry Wives of Windsor* in 1702, asserted, "I know very well that it hath pleased one of the greatest queens that ever was in the world ... This comedy was written at her command, and by her direction, and she was so eager to see it acted that she commanded it to be finished in fourteen days; and was afterwards, as tradition tells us, very well pleased at the representation." Moreover, Nicholas Rowe, in his *Life of Shakespeare* (1709), reports that the Queen "was so well pleased with that admirable character of Falstaff in the two parts of *Henry IV* that she commanded him to continue it for one play more, and to show him in love."

There is evidence in the play itself to corroborate the story documented by Rowe and Dennis. Unlike any of his other dramas, Shakespeare deals exclusively with English society in *The Merry Wives of Windsor*, localizing the play at Windsor, and making overt complementary references to Windsor Castle. And Falstaff is the romantic lead, determined to woo the wives of Ford and Page, two gentlemen of Windsor.

The pressure placed on Shakespeare to write *The Merry Wives of Windsor* might explain why the play is not as brilliant as his other work of the same period. The Falstaff we meet in *The Merry Wives of Windsor* is a mere simulacrum of his former self, virtually devoid of the wit and power granted to him in the history plays. The comical genius of the Falstaff in the *Henry IV* plays, with his "unfettered indulgence in sensual pleasures, his exuberant mendacity and love of his own ease, [and] his unreverend way of life" (Lee 245), is similar to the Falstaff in the *The Merry Wives* in name only.

Reference

Lee, Sir Sidney. *A Life of William Shakespeare*. New York: Dover Publications, 1968.

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Mabillard, Amanda. *Shakespeare's Falstaff*. [Shakespeare Online](http://www.shakespeare-online.com/plays/falstaff.html). 20 Aug. 2000. (23 April 2011) < <http://www.shakespeare-online.com/plays/falstaff.html> >.

The Role of Falstaff

Henry IV Part I made Falstaff a popular comic character with audiences. He even became a favorite of Queen Elizabeth I. Consequently, in *Henry IV Part II*, Shakespeare devotes considerable attention to the fat knight, perhaps more attention than he should receive in a play that presents as the central characters a dying king and his son. However, Falstaff's shenanigans play a key role in the play in that they (1) demonstrate the kind of life Prince Hal has led as a companion of Falstaff and (2) set up the stunning scene at the end of the play when Hal, more mature, renounces his old lifestyle and Falstaff. This scene is important because it shows that Hal has the spine to give up his carefree, irresponsible ways to take on the heavy burdens of kingship.

As in the first play, Falstaff eats, drinks, and makes merry. And, of course, there is no end to his bragging, as in the following passage in which he hyperbolizes about himself: "I would to God my name were not so terrible to the enemy as it is: I were better to be eaten to death with a rust than to be scoured to nothing with perpetual motion (1.2.66). Falstaff, a companion of Prince Hal, even thinks himself young like the prince, telling the Lord Chief Justice, "You that are old consider not the capacities of us that are young; you do measure the heat of our livers with the bitterness of your galls; and we that are in the vaward² of our youth, I must confess, are wags too (1.2.66).

The Lord Chief Justice, well knowing that Falstaff is little more than a wheezing bag of wind, replies, "Have you not a moist eye? a dry hand? a yellow cheek? a white beard? a decreasing leg? an increasing belly? is not your voice broken? your wind short? your chin double? your wit single? and every part about you blasted with antiquity? (1. 2.66).

Renowned Shakespeare critic G.B. Harrison, impressed with Shakespeare's handling of Falstaff, wrote the following appraisal of the character:

The most notable person in [*King Henry IV*] is the fat knight, Sir John Falstaff, the supreme comic character in all drama. In creating Falstaff, Shakespeare used principally his own eyes and ears. Falstaff is the gross incarnation of a type of soldier found in any army, and there were many such—though on a lower level of greatness—swarming in London when the play was first written, spending the profits of the last campaign in taverns, brothels, and playhouses, while they intrigued for a new command in the next season's campaign.... Many of them were rogues who cheated the government and their own men on all occasions.... Though he [Falstaff] can quote Scripture on occasion, he is a liar, a drunkard, and a cheat; he robs the poor and flouts every civic virtue; but on the stage at least he redeems his vices by his incomparable wit and his skill escaping from every tight corner."—G.B. Harrison, ed. *Major British Writers*. New York: Harcourt, 1967 (Page 59).

<http://www.cummingsstudyguides.net/xHenry4Part2.html#Falstaff>

Before the Play: Anticipation Guide

Fighting for one's country is a noble calling.

Young people should not be forced to take on great responsibilities before they are ready.

Wild teen-agers can grow up to become responsible adults.

It is sometimes difficult for children to live up to their parents' expectations.

Those who take power through force, in turn, risk overthrow by force. (How can this be related to modern day world politics?)

It is important to choose your friends wisely.

If given more responsibility, young people frequently rise to the occasion.

When your friends don't mature at the same pace as you do, it is sometimes necessary to let them go.

Famous Quotations

It's fun to look these up and discover their meanings and contexts!

If you don't have copies of the plays, you can go on-line to one of the following websites:

<http://absoluteshakespeare.com/plays/plays.htm>

<http://shakespeare.mit.edu/>

Part 1

So shaken as we are, so wan with care. (1.1)

Let us be Diana's foresters, gentlemen of the shade, minions of the moon. (1.2)

What, in thy quips and thy quiddities? (1.2)

Thou hast the most unsavoury similes. (1.2)

I would to God thou and I knew where a commodity of good names were to be bought. (1.2)

O! thou hast damnable iteration, and art, indeed, able to corrupt a saint. (1.2)

Why, Hal, 'tis my vocation, Hal;
'tis no sin for a man to labour in his vocation. (1.2)

If he fight longer than he sees reason,
I'll forswear arms. (1.2)

He will give the devil his due. (1.2)

If all the year were playing holidays,
To sport would be as tedious as to work;
But when they seldom come, they wished for come. (1.2)

So pestered with a popinjay. (1.3)

God save the mark. (1.3)

The blood more stirs
To rouse a lion than to start a hare! (1.3)

I am bewitched with the rogue's company.
If the rascal have not given me medicines
to make me love him, I'll be hanged. (2.2)

Go hang thyself in thine own heir-apparent garters! (2.2)

It would be argument for a week, laughter for
a month, and a good jest for ever. (2.2)

Out of this nettle, danger, we pluck this flower, safety. (2.3)

Play out the play. (2.4)

Diseased Nature oftentimes breaks forth
In strange eruptions. (3.1)

I am not in the roll of common men. (3.1)

While you live, tell truth and shame the devil! (3.1)

I had rather be a kitten and cry mew
Than one of these same metre ballad-mongers. (3.1)

But in the way of bargain, mark ye me,
I'll cavil on the ninth part of a hair. (3.1)

A deal of skimble-skamble stuff. (3.1)

A good mouth-filling oath. (3.1)

To loathe the taste of sweetness, whereof a little
More than a little is by much too much. (3.2)

I have more flesh than another man, and therefore more frailty. (3.3)

Company, villainous company, hath been the spoil of me. (3.3)

Rob me the exchequer. (3.3)

This sickness doth infect
The very life-blood of our enterprise.
(4.1)

Doomsday is near; die all, die merrily. (4.1)

The cankers of a calm world and a long peace. (4.2)

I am as vigilant as a cat to steal cream. (4.2)

Tut, tut; good enough to toss;
food for powder, food for powder;
they'll fill a pit as well as better:
tush, man, mortal men, mortal men. (4.2)

Greatness knows itself. (4.3)

Rebellion lay in his way, and he found it. (5.1)

Honour pricks me on. Yea, but
how if honour prick me off when I come
on? How then? Can honour set to a leg?
No. Or an arm? No. Or take away the grief of a wound?
No. Honour hath no skill in surgery, then?
No. What is honour? A word. What is in that word?
Honour. What is that honour? Air. (5.1)

Two stars keep not their motion in one sphere. (5.4)

Thy ignominy sleep with thee in the grave,
But not remember'd in thy epitaph! (5.4)

I could have better spared a better man. (5.4)

The better part of valour is discretion;
in the which better part I have saved my life. (5.4)

I'll purge, and leave sack, and live cleanly,
as a nobleman should do. (5.4)

Part 2

Rumour is a pipe
Blown by surmises, jealousies, conjectures,
And of so easy and so plain a stop
That the blunt monster with uncounted heads,
The still-discordant wavering multitude,
Can play upon it. (Induction 15)

See what a ready tongue suspicion hath!
He that but fears the thing he would not know
Hath by instinct knowledge from others' eyes
That what he fear'd is chanced. (1.1.85)

Yet the first bringer of unwelcome news
Hath but a losing office, and his tongue
Sounds ever after as a sullen bell,
Remembered knolling a departed friend. (1.1.103)

The brain of this foolish-compounded clay, man, is not able to invent anything
that tends to laughter, more than I invent or is invented on me:
I am not only witty in myself, but the cause that wit is in other men.
I do here walk before thee like a sow that hath overwhelmed all her litter but one.
(1.2.8)

Some smack of age in you,
some relish of the saltness of time. (1.2.67)

Your lordship, though not clean past your youth,
hath yet some smack of age in you,
some relish of the saltness of time. (1.2.114)

It is the disease of not listening,
the malady of not marking,
that I am troubled withal. (1.2.141)

Virtue is of so little regard in these
costermonger times that true valour is turned
bear-herd: pregnancy is made a tapster, and hath
his quick wit wasted in giving reckonings: all the
other gifts appertinent to man, as the malice of
this age shapes them, are not worth a gooseberry. (1.2.160)

My lord, I was born about three of the clock in the afternoon,
with a white head, and something of a round belly.
For my voice, I have lost it with hollaing, and singing of anthems. (1.2.214)

It was always yet the trick of our English nation,
if they have a good thing, to make it too common. (1.2.243)

I were better
to be eaten to death with rust than
to be scoured to nothing with perpetual motion. (1.2.248)

I can get no remedy against this consumption of the purse:
borrowing only lingers and lingers it out, but the disease is incurable. (1.2.269)

Away, you scullion! you rampallion! you fustilarian!
I'll tickle your catastrophe. (2.1.68)

Thou didst swear to me upon a parcel-gilt goblet,
sitting in my Dolphin-chamber, at the round table,
by a sea-coal fire, upon Wednesday in Wheeson week. (2.1.98)

Doth it not show vilely in me to desire small beer? (2.2.8)

Let the end try the man. (2.2.53)

He was indeed the glass
Wherein the noble youth did dress themselves. (2.2.22)

Shall pack-horses,
And hollow pampered jades of Asia,
Which cannot go but thirty miles a day,
Compare with Caesars, and with Cannibals,
And Trojan Greeks? nay, rather damn them with
King Cerberus; and let the welkin roar. (2.4.177)

Is it not strange that desire should
so many years outlive performance? (2.4.284)

O sleep! O gentle sleep!
Nature's soft nurse, how have I frightened thee,
That thou no more wilt weigh mine eyelids down
And steep my senses in forgetfulness?
Why rather, sleep, liest thou in smoky cribs,

Upon uneasy pallets stretching thee,
And hushed with buzzing night-flies to thy slumber,
Than in the perfumed chambers of the great,
Under the canopies of costly state,
And lulled with sound of sweetest melody? (3.1.6)

Uneasy lies the head that wears a crown. (3.1.32)

O God! that one might read the book of fate,
And see the revolution of the times
Make mountains level, and the continent,
Weary of solid firmness, melt itself
Into the sea! (3.1.45)

A soldier is better accommodated than with a wife. (3.2.74)

I care not; a man can die but once;
we owe God a death. (3.2.253)

He that dies this year is quit for the next. (3.2.257)

Lord, Lord! how subject we old men
are to this vice of lying. (3.2.330)

That I may justly say with the hook-nosed fellow of Rome,
'I came, saw, and overcame.' (4.3.45)

A man cannot make him laugh;
but that's no marvel; he drinks no wine. (4.3.96)

If I had a thousand sons, the first human principle
I would teach them should be, to forswear thin potations. (4.3.134)

This sleep is sound indeed; this is a sleep
That from this golden rigol hath divorced
So many English kings. (4.5.35)

Thy wish was father, Harry, to that thought. (4.5.92)

Commit
The oldest sins the newest kind of ways. (4.5.126)

Sorrow so royally in you appears,
That I will deeply put the fashion on. (5.2.52)

My father is gone wild into his grave. (5.2.124)

Make less thy body hence, and more thy grace;
Leave gourmandising; know the grave doth gape
For thee thrice wider than for other men. (5.5.60)

Presume not that I am the thing I was. (5.5.62)

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<http://www.shakespeare-online.com/quotes/2henryivquotes.html>

<http://www.shakespeare-online.com/quotes/1henryivquotes.html>

Reading the Play

I usually insist upon reading the play start to finish; however, not so in this case. My school does not have the books and rather than photocopy the entire script, I choose specific scenes (from the SIR adaptation) to make available to my students for classroom reading and discussion. Feel free to do the same.

ACT I, SCENE I. London. The palace.

We meet the king as an old man, yet still proud and ready to fight. He reflects on the characteristics of his enemy's son, and wishes they were true of his own son.

KING HENRY IV

My blood hath been too cold and temperate,
Unapt to stir at these indignities,
And you have found me; for accordingly
You tread upon my patience: but be sure
I will from henceforth rather be myself,
Mighty and to be fear'd, than my condition;
Which hath been smooth as oil, soft as young down,
And therefore lost that title of respect
Which the proud soul ne'er pays but to the proud.

WORCESTER

Yea, my good lord.
Those prisoners in your highness' name demanded,
Which Harry Percy here at Holmedon took,

Were, as he says, not with such strength denied
As is deliver'd to your majesty:
The circumstance consider'd, good my lord,
Whate'er Lord Harry Percy then had said
To such a person and in such a place,
At such a time, with all the rest retold,
May reasonably die and never rise
To do him wrong or any way impeach
What then he said, so he unsay it now.

KING HENRY IV

Why, yet he doth deny his prisoners,
But with proviso and exception,
That we at our own charge shall ransom straight
His brother-in-law, the foolish Mortimer;
Who, on my soul, hath wilfully betray'd
The lives of those that he did lead to fight
Against that damn'd Glendower.

EARL OF WORCESTER

Our house, my sovereign liege, little deserves
The scourge of greatness to be used on it;
And that same greatness too which our own hands
Have help to make so portly.

KING HENRY IV

Worcester, get thee gone; for I do see
Danger and disobedience in thine eye:
You have good leave to leave us: when we need
Your use and counsel, we shall send for you.

Worcester exits.

KING HENRY IV (CON'T)

(To Hotspur)
Shall our coffers, then,
Be emptied to redeem a traitor home?
No, on the barren mountains let him starve;
For I shall never hold that man my friend
Whose tongue shall ask me for one penny cost
To ransom home revolted Mortimer.

HOTSPUR

Revolted Mortimer!
He never did fall off, my sovereign liege,

But by the chance of war;
Then let not him be slander'd with revolt.

KING HENRY IV

Thou dost belie him, Percy, thou dost belie him;
Let me not hear you speak of Mortimer:
Send me your prisoners with the speediest means,
Or you shall hear in such a kind from me
As will displease you. We licence your departure.
Send us your prisoners, or you will hear of it.

Exit Hotspur

WESTMORELAND

This is his uncle's teaching; this is Worcester,
Malevolent to you in all aspects;
Which makes him prune himself, and bristle up
The crest of youth against your dignity.

KING HENRY IV

In faith,
It is a conquest for a prince to boast of.
Yea, there thou makest me sad and makest me sin
In envy that my Lord Northumberland
Should be the father to so blest a son,
A son who is the theme of honour's tongue;
Whilst I, by looking on the praise of him,
See riot and dishonour stain the brow
Of my young Harry. O that it could be proved
That some night-tripping fairy had exchanged
In cradle-clothes our children where they lay,
And call'd mine Percy, his Plantagenet!
Then would I have his Harry, and he mine.

SCENE II. London. road outside the boars-head tavern

Enter the PRINCE OF WALES and FALSTAFF, obviously old and good friends, as well as "partners in crime."

Henry leafs through a billfold, Falstaff rifles through a purse and pulls out a pocket watch. He winds it.

FALSTAFF

Now, Hal, what time of day is it, lad?

PRINCE HENRY

What a devil hast thou to do with the time of the day? Unless hours were cups of sack and clocks the tongues of bawds, I see no reason why thou shouldst be so superfluous to demand the time of the day.

FALSTAFF

I prithee, sweet wag, when thou art king, as, God save thy grace,--majesty I should say, for grace thou wilt have none,--

PRINCE HENRY

What, none?

FALSTAFF

No, by my troth, not so much as will serve to prologue to an egg and butter. -- But, I prithee, sweet wag, shall there be gallows standing in England when thou art king? Do not thou, when thou art king, hang a thief.

PRINCE HENRY

No; thou shalt.

FALSTAFF

Shall I? O rare! By the Lord, I'll be a brave judge.

PRINCE HENRY

Thou judgest false already: I mean, thou shalt have the hanging of the thieves and so become a rare hangman.

FALSTAFF

Thou art indeed the most comparative, rascalliest, sweet young prince. Thou hast done much harm upon me, Hal; God forgive thee for it! Before I knew thee, Hal, I knew nothing; and now am I, if a man should speak truly, little better than one of the wicked. I must give over this life, and I will give it over: by the Lord, and I do not, I am a villain: I'll be damned for never a king's son in Christendom.

PRINCE HENRY

Where shall we take a purse tomorrow, Jack?

FALSTAFF

'Zounds, where thou wilt, lad; I'll make one; an I do not, call me villain and baffle me.

PRINCE HENRY

I see a good amendment of life in thee; from praying
to purse-taking.

FaLSTAFF

Why, Hal, 'tis my vocation, Hal; 'tis no sin for a
man to labour in his vocation.

*Falstaff, taking the billfold from Henry, enters Tavern to the sound of uproarious
drunkards .*

PRINCE HENRY

I know you all, and will awhile uphold
The unyoked humour of your idleness:
Yet herein will I imitate the sun,
Who doth permit the base contagious clouds
To smother up his beauty from the world,
That, when he please again to be himself,
Being wanted, he may be more wonder'd at,
By breaking through the foul and ugly mists
Of vapours that did seem to strangle him.
If all the year were playing holidays,
To sport would be as tedious as to work;
But when they seldom come, they wish'd for come,
And nothing pleaseth but rare accidents.
So, when this loose behavior I throw off
And pay the debt I never promised,
By how much better than my word I am,
By so much shall I falsify men's hopes;
And like bright metal on a sullen ground,
My reformation, glittering o'er my fault,
Shall show more goodly and attract more eyes
Than that which hath no foil to set it off.
I'll so offend, to make offence a skill;
Redeeming time when men think least I will.

Exits into Tavern.

ACT II, Scene 1 - Boars Head Tavern

*Falstaff, Henry, Poins and Doll Tearsheet share a table. Falstaff is in the middle of a
big fish story.*

PRINCE HENRY

What, fought you with them all?

FALSTAFF

All! I know not what you call all; but if I fought not with fifty of them, I am a bunch of radish: if there were not two or three and fifty upon poor old Jack, then am I no two-legged creature.

PRINCE HENRY

Pray God you have not murdered some of them.

FALSTAFF

Nay, that's past praying for: I have peppered two of them; two I am sure I have paid, two rogues in buckram suits. I tell thee what, Hal, if I tell thee a lie, spit in my face, call me horse. Thou knowest my old ward; here I lay and thus I bore my point. Four rogues in buckram let drive at me--

PRINCE HENRY

What, four? thou saidst but two even now.

FALSTAFF

Four, Hal; I told thee four.

POINS

Ay, ay, he said four.

FALSTAFF

These four came all a-front, and mainly thrust at me. I made me no more ado but took all their seven points in my target, thus.

PRINCE HENRY

Seven? why, there were but four even now.

FALSTAFF

In buckram?

POINS

Ay, four, in buckram suits.

FALSTAFF

Seven, by these hilts, or I am a villain else.

PRINCE HENRY

Prithee, let him alone; we shall have more anon.

FALSTAFF

Dost thou hear me, Hal?

PRINCE HENRY

Ay, and mark thee too, Jack.

FALSTAFF

Do so, for it is worth the listening to. These nine in buckram that I told thee of--

PRINCE HENRY

So, two more already.

FALSTAFF

Their points being broken,--

POINS

Down fell their hose.

FALSTAFF

Began to give me ground: but I followed me close, came in foot and hand; and with a thought seven of the eleven I paid.

PRINCE HENRY

O monstrous! eleven buckram men grown out of two!

FALSTAFF

But, as the devil would have it, three misbegotten knaves in Kendal green came at my back and let drive at me; for it was so dark, Hal, that thou couldst not see thy hand.

PRINCE HENRY

These lies are like their father that begets them; gross as a mountain, open, palpable.

FALSTAFF

What, art thou mad? art thou mad? is not the truth the truth?

PRINCE HENRY

Why, how couldst thou know these men in Kendal green, when it was so dark thou couldst not see thy hand? come, tell us your reason: what sayest thou to this?

POINS

Come, your reason, Jack, your reason.

FALSTAFF

What, upon compulsion? 'Zounds, an I were at the strappado, or all the racks in the world, I would not tell you on compulsion. Give you a reason on compulsion! If reasons were as plentiful as blackberries, I would give no man a reason upon compulsion, I...

Enter Mistress Quickly

Mistress QUICKLY

O Jesu, my lord the prince!

FALSTAFF

How now, my lady the hostess!

PRINCE HENRY

What sayest thou to me?

MistRESS QUICKLY

Marry, my lord, there is a nobleman of the court at door brought this for you: he says he comes from your father.

Falstaff takes letter from her

PRINCE HENRY

Give him as much as will make him a royal man, and send him back again to my mother.

FALSTAFF

What manner of man is he?

MisTRESS QUICKLY

An old man.

FALSTAFF

What doth gravity out of his bed at midnight?

Falstaff reads the letter. Henry picks Falstaff's pocket

Worcester is stolen away to-night; thy father's beard is turned white with the news: But tell me, Hal, art not thou horrible afeard? Thou being heir-apparent, could the world pick thee out three such enemies again as that fiend Douglas, that spirit Percy, and that devil Glendower? Art thou not horribly afraid? Doth not thy blood thrill at it?

PRINCE HENRY

Not a whit, i' faith; I lack some of thy instinct.

FALSTAFF

Well, thou wert be horribly chid tomorrow when thou comest to thy father: if thou love me, practise an answer.

Harry and Falstaff decide to have some fun by role-playing: Falstaff becomes Harry, and Harry, his father, the king.

PRINCE HENRY

Do thou stand for my father, and examine me upon the particulars of my life.

FALSTAFF

Shall I? Content: this chair shall be my state, this dagger my sceptre, and this cushion my crown.

PRINCE HENRY

Thy state is taken for a joined-stool, thy golden sceptre for a leaden dagger, and thy precious rich crown for a pitiful bald crown!

FALSTAFF

Well, an the fire of grace be not quite out of thee, now shalt thou be moved. Give me a cup of sack to make my eyes look red, that it may be thought I have wept;

PRINCE HENRY

Well, here is my leg.

FALSTAFF

And here is my speech. Stand aside, nobility.

MISTRESS QUICKLY

O Jesu, this is excellent sport, i' faith!

DOLL TEARSHEET

O Jesu, he doth it as like one of these harlotry players as ever I see!

FALSTAFF

Peace, good pint-pot; peace, good tickle-brain. Harry, I do not only marvel where thou spendest thy time, but also how thou art accompanied: for though the camomile, the more it is trodden on the faster it grows, yet youth, the more it is wasted the sooner it wears. That thou art my son, I have partly thy mother's word, partly my own opinion. If then thou be son to me, here lies the point; why, being son to me, art thou so pointed at? Shall the sun of England prove a thief and take purses? a question to be asked. There is a thing, Harry, which thou hast often heard of and it is known to many in our land by the name of pitch: this pitch, as ancient writers do report, doth defile; so doth the company thou keepest: for, Harry, now I do not speak to thee in drink but in tears, not in pleasure but in passion, not in words only, but in woes also: and yet there is a virtuous man whom I have often noted in thy company, but I know not his name.

PRINCE HENRY

What manner of man, an it like your majesty?

FALSTAFF

A goodly portly man, i' faith, and a corpulent; of a cheerful look, a pleasing eye and a most noble carriage; and, as I think, his age some fifty, or, by'r lady, inclining to three score; and now I remember me, his name is Falstaff: if that man should be lewdly given, he deceiveth me; for, Harry, I see virtue in his looks. If then the tree may be known by the fruit, as the fruit by the tree, then, peremptorily I speak it, there is virtue in that Falstaff: him keep with, the rest banish. And tell

me now, thou naughty varlet, tell me, where hast thou been this month?

PRINCE HENRY

Dost thou speak like a king? Do thou stand for me, and I'll play my father.

FALSTAFF

Depose me? If thou dost it half so gravely, so majestically, both in word and matter, hang me up by the heels for a rabbit-sucker or a poulter's hare.

PRINCE HENRY

Well, here I am set.

FALSTAFF

And here I stand: judge, my masters.

PRINCE HENRY

Now, Harry, whence come you?

FALSTAFF

My noble lord, from Eastcheap.

PRINCE HENRY

The complaints I hear of thee are grievous.

FALSTAFF

'Sblood, my lord, they are false: nay, I'll tickle ye for a young prince, i' faith.

PRINCE HENRY

Swearest thou, ungracious boy? Henceforth ne'er look on me. Why dost thou converse with that bolting-hutch of beastliness, that swollen parcel of dropsies, that stuffed cloak-bag of guts? Wherein is he good, but to taste sack and drink it? Wherein cunning, but in craft? Wherein crafty, but in villany? Wherein villainous, but in all things? Wherein worthy, but in nothing?

FALSTAFF

I would your grace would take me with you: whom means your grace?

PRINCE HENRY

That villainous abominable misleader of youth, Falstaff, that old white-bearded Satan.

FALSTAFF

My lord, the man I know.

PRINCE HENRY

I know thou dost.

FALSTAFF

But to say I know more harm in him than in myself, were to say more than I know. That he is old, the more the pity, his white hairs do witness it; but that he is, saving your reverence, a whoremaster, that I utterly deny. If sack and sugar be a fault, God help the wicked! No, my good lord; banish Peto, banish Bardolph, banish Poins: but for sweet Jack Falstaff, kind Jack Falstaff, true Jack Falstaff, valiant Jack Falstaff, and therefore more valiant, being, as he is, old Jack Falstaff, banish not him thy Harry's company, banish not him thy Harry's company: banish plump Jack, and banish all the world.

PRINCE HENRY

I do, I will.

I think it is good morrow, is it not?

FALSTAFF

Play out the play: I have much to say in the behalf of that Falstaff.

Act III, Scene 1 London. The palace.

Fatigued servant finishes chores. Enter KING HENRY IV in his nightgown

The prince wants his father to trust him and believe that he has become mature.

KING HENRY IV

Where is the prince?

SERVANT

I do not know, my lord.

The King waves the yawning servant away. Servant exits.

KING HENRY IV

How many thousand of my poorest subjects
Are at this hour asleep! O sleep, O gentle sleep,
Nature's soft nurse, how have I frightened thee,

That thou no more wilt weigh my eyelids down
And steep my senses in forgetfulness?
O thou dull god, why liest thou with the vile
In loathsome beds, and leavest the kingly couch
A watch-case or a common 'larum-bell?
Canst thou, O partial sleep, give thy repose
To the wet sea-boy in an hour so rude,
And in the calmest and most stillest night,
With all appliances and means to boot,
Deny it to a king? Then happy low, lie down!
Uneasy lies the head that wears a crown.

Prince Henry enters

KING HENRY IV

Now, Harry, whence come you?

PRINCE HENRY

My noble lord, from Eastcheap.

KING HENRY IV

I know not whether God will have it so,
For some displeasing service I have done,
That, in his secret doom, out of my blood
He'll breed revengement and a scourge for me;
But thou dost in thy passages of life
Make me believe that thou art only mark'd
For the hot vengeance and the rod of heaven
To punish my mistreadings. Tell me else,
Could such inordinate and low desires,
Such poor, such bare, such lewd, such mean attempts,
Such barren pleasures, rude society,
As thou art match'd withal and grafted to,
Accompany the greatness of thy blood
And hold their level with thy princely heart?

PRINCE HENRY

So please your majesty, I would I could
Quit all offences with as clear excuse
As well as I am doubtless I can purge
Myself of many I am charged withal:
Yet such extenuation let me beg,
As, in reproof of many tales devised,
I may, for some things true, wherein my youth
Hath faulty wander'd and irregular,
Find pardon on my true submission.

KING HENRY IV

God pardon thee! Yet let me wonder, Harry,
At thy affections, which do hold a wing
Quite from the flight of all thy ancestors.
Thy place in council thou hast rudely lost.
The hope and expectation of thy time
Is ruin'd, and the soul of every man
Prophetically doth forethink thy fall.
Had I so lavish of my presence been,
So common-hackney'd in the eyes of men,
So stale and cheap to vulgar company,
Opinion, that did help me to the crown,
Had still kept loyal to possession
And left me in reputeless banishment,
A fellow of no mark nor likelihood.
By being seldom seen, I could not stir
But like a comet I was wonder'd at;
The skipping king, he ambled up and down,
Mingled his royalty with capering fools,
Grew a companion to the common streets;
So when he had occasion to be seen,
He was but as the cuckoo is in June,
Heard, not regarded; seen, but with such eyes
As, sick and blunted with community,
Afford no extraordinary gaze,
And in that very line, Harry, standest thou;
For thou has lost thy princely privilege
With vile participation: not an eye
But is a-weary of thy common sight,
Save mine, which hath desired to see thee more.

PRINCE HENRY

I shall hereafter, my thrice gracious lord,
Be more myself.

KING HENRY IV

For all the world
As thou art to this hour was Richard then,
And even as I was then is Percy now.
He hath more worthy interest to the state
Than thou the shadow of succession;
For, being no more in debt to years than thou,
He leads ancient lords and reverend bishops on
To bloody battles and to bruising arms.
And what say you to this? Percy, Northumberland,

The Archbishop's grace of York, Douglas, Mortimer,
Capitulate against us and are up.
But wherefore do I tell these news to thee?
Why, Harry, do I tell thee of my foes,
Which art my near'st and dearest enemy?
Thou that art like enough, through vassal fear,
Base inclination and the start of spleen
To fight against me under Percy's pay,
To dog his heels and curtsy at his frowns,
To show how much thou art degenerate.

PRINCE HENRY

Do not think so; you shall not find it so:
And God forgive them that so much have sway'd
Your majesty's good thoughts away from me!
I will redeem all this on Percy's head
And in the closing of some glorious day
Be bold to tell you that I am your son;
When I will wear a garment all of blood
And stain my favours in a bloody mask,
Which, wash'd away, shall scour my shame with it:
For I shall make this northern youth exchange
His glorious deeds for my indignities.
This, in the name of God, I promise here:
The which if He be pleased I shall perform,
I do beseech your majesty may salve
The long-grown wounds of my intemperance:
If not, the end of life cancels all bands;
And I will die a hundred thousand deaths
Ere break the smallest parcel of this vow.

KING HENRY IV

A hundred thousand rebels die in this:
Thou shalt have charge and sovereign trust herein.

Scene 2 Eastcheap. The Boar's-Head Tavern.

FALSTAFF and Poins share a table

Enter PRINCE HENRY marching. He tells Falstaff that they are going to war.

FALSTAFF

Now Hal, to the news at court.

PRINCE HENRY

I am good friends with my father and may do any thing.

FALSTAFF

Rob me the exchequer the first thing thou doest, and do it with unwashed hands too.

POINS

Do, my lord.

PRINCE HENRY

We must all to the wars, and thy place shall be honourable. I have procured thee, Jack, a charge of foot.

FALSTAFF

I would it had been of horse. Where shall I find one that can steal well? O for a fine thief, of the age of two and twenty or thereabouts! I am heinously unprovided. Well, God be thanked for these rebels, they offend none but the virtuous: I laud them, I praise them.

PrINCE HENRY

Meet me to-morrow in the temple hall at two o'clock in the afternoon. There shalt thou know thy charge; and there receive Money and order for their furniture. The land is burning; Percy stands on high; And either we or they must lower lie.

Exit PRINCE HENRY

FALSTAFF

Rare words! Brave world! Hostess, my breakfast, come! O, I could wish this tavern were my drum!

Later, on a public road near Coventry.

Enter FALSTAFF

FALSTAFF

If I be not ashamed of my soldiers, I am a soused gurnet. I have misused the king's press damnably. I have got, in exchange of a hundred and fifty soldiers, three hundred and odd pounds. I pressed me none but such

toasts-and-butter, with hearts in their bellies no bigger than pins' heads, and they have bought out their services; and now my whole charge consists of ancients, corporals, lieutenants, slaves as ragged as Lazarus, discarded unjust serving-men, revolted tapsters, and a hundred and fifty tattered prodigals lately come from swine-keeping, from eating draff and husks. No eye hath seen such scarecrows. There's but a shirt and a half in all my company; and the half shirt is two napkins tacked together and thrown over the shoulders like an herald's coat without sleeves. But that's all one; they'll find linen enough on every hedge.

Enter the PRINCE and WESTMORELAND

WESTMORELAND

Sir John, you loiter here too long, being you are to take soldiers up in counties as you go.

FALSTAFF

Tut, never fear me: I am as vigilant as a cat to steal cream.

PRINCE HENRY

I think, to steal cream indeed, for thy theft hath already made thee butter. But tell me, Jack, whose fellows are these that come after?

FALSTAFF

Mine, Hal, mine.

PRINCE HENRY

I did never see such pitiful rascals.

FALSTAFF

Tut, tut; good enough to toss; food for powder, food for powder; they'll fill a pit as well as better: tush, man, mortal men, mortal men.

WESTMORELAND

Ay, but, Sir John, methinks they are exceeding poor and bare, too beggarly.

FALSTAFF

'Faith, for their poverty, I know not where they had that; and for their bareness, I am sure they never learned that of me.

PRINCE HENRY

No I'll be sworn; unless you call three fingers on the ribs bare. But, sirrah, make haste: Percy is already in the field.

FALSTAFF

What, is the king encamped?

WESTMORELAND

He is, Sir John: I fear we shall stay too long.

FALSTAFF

Well,
To the latter end of a fray and the beginning of a feast
Fits a dull fighter and a keen guest.

ACT V, SCENE I.

KING HENRY IV's camp near Shrewsbury.

*Enter KING HENRY, PRINCE HENRY, EARL OF WESTMORELAND and
FALSTAFF*

KING HENRY IV

How bloodily the sun begins to peer
Above yon busky hill! The day looks pale
At his distemperature.

PRINCE HENRY

The southern wind
Doth play the trumpet to his purposes,
And by his hollow whistling in the leaves
Foretells a tempest and a blustering day.

KING HENRY IV

Then with the losers let it sympathize,
For nothing can seem foul to those that win.

Enter WORCESTER

KING HENRY IV

How now, my Lord of Worcester! 'tis not well
That you and I should meet upon such terms
As now we meet. You have deceived our trust,
And made us doff our easy robes of peace,

To crush our old limbs in ungentle steel:
This is not well, my lord, this is not well.
What say you to it? Will you again unknit
This curlish knot of all-abhorred war?

EARL OF WORCESTER

Hear me, my liege:
For mine own part, I could be well content
To entertain the lag-end of my life
With quiet hours; for I do protest,
I have not sought the day of this dislike.

KING HENRY IV

You have not sought it! How comes it, then?

FALSTAFF

Rebellion lay in his way, and he found it.

PRINCE HENRY

Peace, chewet, peace!
(To Worcester)
In both your armies there is many a soul
Shall pay full dearly for this encounter,
If once they join in trial. Tell your nephew,
The Prince of Wales doth join with all the world
In praise of Henry Percy: by my hopes,
This present enterprise set off his head,
I do not think a braver gentleman,
More daring or more bold, is now alive
To grace this latter age with noble deeds.
I am content that he shall take the odds
Of his great name and estimation,
And will, to save the blood on either side,
Try fortune with him in a single fight.

KING HENRY IV

And, Prince of Wales, so dare we venture thee,
Albeit considerations infinite
Do make against it. No, good Worcester, no,
We love our people well; even those we love
That are misled upon your cousin's part;
And, will they take the offer of our grace,
Both he and they and you, every man
Shall be my friend again and I'll be his:
So tell your cousin, and bring me word

What he will do: but if he will not yield,
Rebuke and dread correction wait on us
And they shall do their office. So, be gone;
We will not now be troubled with reply:
We offer fair; take it advisedly.

Exit Worcester

PRINCE HENRY

It will not be accepted, on my life:
The Douglas and the Hotspur both together
Are confident against the world in arms.

KING HENRY IV

Hence, therefore, every leader to his charge;
For, on their answer, will we set on them:
And God befriend us, as our cause is just!

SCENE II. The rebel camp.

Enter WORCESTER and Hotspur, meeting

HOTSPUR

Uncle, what news?

EARL OF WORCESTER

The king will bid you battle presently.
There is no seeming mercy in him.

HOTSPUR

Did you beg any? God forbid!

EARL OF WORCESTER

He calls us rebels, traitors; and will scourge
With haughty arms this hateful name in us.

HOTSPUR

Arm, gentlemen; to arms! For I will throw
A brave defiance in King Henry's teeth.

EARL OF WORCESTER

The Prince of Wales stepp'd forth before the king,
And, nephew, challenged you to single fight.

HOTSPUR

O, would the quarrel lay upon our heads,
And that no man might draw short breath today
But I and Harry Monmouth! Tell me, tell me,
How show'd his tasking? seem'd it in contempt?

EARL OF WORCESTER

No, by my soul; I never in my life
Did hear a challenge urged more modestly.

HOTSPUR

Uncle, I think thou art enamoured
On his follies: never did I hear
Of any prince so wild a libertine.
But be he as he will, yet once ere night
I will embrace him with a soldier's arm,
That he shall shrink under my courtesy.
Arm, arm with speed: the time of life is short!
An if we live, we live to tread on kings;
If die, brave death, when princes die with us!
Sound all the lofty instruments of war,
And by that music let us all embrace;
For, heaven to earth, some of us never shall
A second time do such a courtesy.

The trumpets sound. They embrace, and exeunt

SCENE III. Plain between the camps. Falstaff is much more at home in the taverns of London than on the battlefield.**FALSTAFF**

Though I could 'scape shot-free at London, I fear
the shot here; here's no scoring but upon the pate.
Here's no vanity! I am as hot as moulten
lead, and as heavy too: God keep lead out of me! I
need no more weight than mine own bowels. I have
led my ragamuffins where they are peppered: there's
not three of my hundred and fifty left alive; and
they are for the town's end, to beg during life.
But who comes here?

Enter PRINCE HENRY

PRINCE HENRY

What, stand'st thou idle here? Lend me thy sword:
Many a nobleman lies stark and stiff
Under the hoofs of vaunting enemies,
Whose deaths are yet unrevenged: I prithee,
lend me thy sword.

FALSTAFF

O Hal, I prithee, give me leave to breathe awhile.
Turk Gregory never did such deeds in arms as I have
done this day. I have paid Percy, I have made him sure.

PRINCE HENRY

He is, indeed; and living to kill thee. I prithee,
lend me thy sword.

FALSTAFF

Nay, before God, Hal, if Percy be alive, thou get'st
not my sword; but take my pistol, if thou wilt.

PRINCE HENRY

Give it to me: what, is it in the case?

FALSTAFF

Ay, Hal; 'tis hot, 'tis hot; there's that will sack a city.

PRINCE HENRY draws it out, and finds it to be a bottle of sack

PRINCE HENRY

What, is it a time to jest and dally now?

He throws the bottle at him. Exit

FALSTAFF

Well, if Percy be alive, I'll pierce him. I like
not such grinning honour as Sir Walter hath: give me
life: which if I can save, so; if not, honour comes
unlooked for, and there's an end.

Exit FALSTAFF

SCENE IV. Another part of the field.

Alarum. Excursions. Enter KING HENRY, PRINCE HENRY, and EARL OF WESTMORELAND

The prince is injured and his father is worried, but Harry refuses to give in to “a shallow scratch.”

KING HENRY IV

I prithee,
Harry, withdraw thyself; thou bleed'st too much.
My Lord of Westmoreland, lead him to his tent.

WESTMORELAND

Come, my lord, I'll lead you to your tent.

PRINCE HENRY

Lead me, my lord? I do not need your help:
And God forbid a shallow scratch should drive
The Prince of Wales from such a field as this,
Where stain'd nobility lies trodden on,
and rebels' arms triumph in massacres!

Exeunt Henry IV and Westmoreland

Prince Henry and Harry Percy (Hotspur) finally meet.

HOTSPUR

If I mistake not, thou art Harry Monmouth.

PRINCE HENRY

Thou speak'st as if I would deny my name.

HOTSPUR

My name is Harry Percy.

PRINCE HENRY

Why, then I see
A very valiant rebel of the name.
I am the Prince of Wales; and think not, Percy,
To share with me in glory any more:
Two stars keep not their motion in one sphere;
Nor can one England brook a double reign,
Of Harry Percy and the Prince of Wales.

HOTSPUR

Nor shall it, Harry; for the hour is come
To end the one of us; and would to God
Thy name in arms were now as great as mine!

PRINCE HENRY

I'll make it greater ere I part from thee;
And all the budding honours on thy crest
I'll crop, to make a garland for my head.

HOTSPUR

I can no longer brook thy vanities.

They fight

Enter FALSTAFF

FALSTAFF

Well said, Hal! To it Hal! Nay, you shall find no
boy's play here, I can tell you.

*Enter WORCESTER; he fights with FALSTAFF, who falls down as if he were dead, and
exit WORCESTER. HOTSPUR is wounded, and falls*

HOTSPUR

O, Harry, thou hast robb'd me of my youth!
I better brook the loss of brittle life
Than those proud titles thou hast won of me;
They wound my thoughts worse than sword my flesh:
But thought's the slave of life, and life time's fool;
And time, that takes survey of all the world,
Must have a stop. O, I could prophesy,
But that the earthy and cold hand of death
Lies on my tongue: no, Percy, thou art dust
And food for--

Dies

PRINCE HENRY

For worms, brave Percy: fare thee well, great heart!
Ill-weaved ambition, how much art thou shrunk!
When that this body did contain a spirit,
A kingdom for it was too small a bound;
But now two paces of the vilest earth
Is room enough: this earth that bears thee dead

Bears not alive so stout a gentleman.
Adieu, and take thy praise with thee to heaven!
Thy ignominy sleep with thee in the grave,
But not remember'd in thy epitaph!

He spieth FALSTAFF on the ground

PRINCE HENRY (cont)

What, old acquaintance! Could not all this flesh
Keep in a little life? Poor Jack, farewell!
I could have better spared a better man:
O, I should have a heavy miss of thee,
If I were much in love with vanity!
Death hath not struck so fat a deer to-day,
Though many dearer, in this bloody fray.
Embowell'd will I see thee by and by:
Till then in blood by noble Percy lie.

Exit PRINCE HENRY

FALSTAFF

[Rising up] Embowelled! if thou embowel me to-day,
I'll give you leave to powder me and eat me too
to-morrow. 'Sblood,'twas time to counterfeit, or
that hot termagant Scot had paid me scot and lot too.
Counterfeit? I lie, I am no counterfeit: to die,
is to be a counterfeit; for he is but the
counterfeit of a man who hath not the life of a man:
but to counterfeit dying, when a man thereby
liveth, is to be no counterfeit, but the true and
perfect image of life indeed. The better part of
valour is discretion; in the which better part I
have saved my life. 'Zounds, I am afraid of this
gunpowder Percy, though he be dead: how, if he
should counterfeit too and rise? By my faith, I am
afraid he would prove the better counterfeit.
Therefore I'll make him sure; yea, and I'll swear I
killed him. Why may not he rise as well as I?
Nothing confutes me but eyes, and nobody sees me.
Therefore, sirrah,

Stabbing him

FALSTAFF

With a new wound in your thigh, come you along with me.

Takes up HOTSPUR on his back

Re-enter PRINCE HENRY

PRINCE HENRY

Art thou alive?

Or is it fantasy that plays upon our eyesight?

I prithee, speak; I will not trust my eyes
Without my ears: thou art not what thou seem'st.

FALSTAFF

No, that's certain; I am not a double man: but if I
be not Jack Falstaff, then am I a Jack. There is Percy:

Throwing the body down

if your father will do me any honour, so; if not, let
him kill the next Percy himself. I look to be either
earl or duke, I can assure you.

PRINCE HENRY

Why, Percy I killed myself and saw thee dead.

FALSTAFF

Didst thou? Lord, Lord, how this world is given to
lying! I grant you I was down and out of breath;
and so was he: but we rose both at an instant and
fought a long hour by Shrewsbury clock. If I may be
believed, so; if not, let them that should reward
valour bear the sin upon their own heads. I'll take
it upon my death, I gave him this wound in the
thigh: if the man were alive and would deny it,
'zounds, I would make him eat a piece of my sword.

PRINCE HENRY

Come, bring your luggage nobly on your back:
For my part, if a lie may do thee grace,
I'll gild it with the happiest terms I have.

A retreat is sounded

PRINCE HENRY

The trumpet sounds retreat; the day is ours.
Come, Sir John, let us to the highest of the field,
To see what friends are living, who are dead.

Exit PRINCE HENRY

FALSTAFF

I'll follow, as they say, for reward. He that
rewards me, God reward him! If I do grow great,
I'll grow less; for I'll purge, and leave sack, and
live cleanly as a nobleman should do.

Exeunt

SCENE V. Another part of the Field

Worcester has been caught and is to be punished.

Enter KING HENRY IV, WESTMORELAND and WORCESTER, a prisoner

KING HENRY IV

Thus ever did rebellion find rebuke.
Ill-spirited Worcester! did not we send grace,
Pardon and terms of love to all of you?
And wouldst thou turn our offers contrary?
Misuse the tenor of thy kinsman's trust?
Three knights upon our party slain to-day,
A noble earl and many a creature else
Had been alive this hour,
If like a Christian thou hadst truly borne
Betwixt our armies true intelligence.

EARL OF WORCESTER

What I have done my safety urged me to;
And I embrace this fortune patiently,
Since not to be avoided it falls on me.

KING HENRY IV

Bear Worcester to the death:
Other offenders we will pause upon.

Exeunt WORCESTER, guarded

Now, lords, if God doth give successful end
To this debate that bleedeth at our doors,
We will our youth lead on to higher fields
And draw no swords but what are sanctified.
Our navy is address'd, our power collected,
Our substitutes in absence well invested,
And every thing lies level to our wish:
And wherefore should these good news make me sick?
Will fortune never come with both hands full,
But write her fair words still in foulest letters?
She either gives a stomach and no food;
Such are the poor, in health; or else a feast
And takes away the stomach; such are the rich,
That have abundance and enjoy it not.
And now my sight fails, and my brain is giddy:
O me! Come near me; now I am much ill.

WESTMORELAND

Comfort, your majesty!

KING HENRY IV

The Prince of Wales! Where is he? Let me see him:
He is not here.
I pray you, take me up, and bear me hence
Into some other chamber: softly, pray.

Enter PRINCE HENRY

PRINCE HENRY

How doth the king?

WESTMORELAND

Exceeding ill. Will't please your grace to go along with us?

ACT VII, SCENE 1.

The fighting over, Henry receives a letter from Falstaff, who is quite full of himself. Henry and Poins plan a trick on Falstaff which involves a disguise.

PAGE

God save your grace!

PRINCE HENRY

And yours! And how doth thy master?

PAGE

Well, my lord. He heard of your grace's coming to town: there's a letter for you.

Page hands letter over

POINS

[Reads] 'Sir John Falstaff, knight, to the son of the king, nearest his father, Harry Prince of Wales, greeting.' Why, this is a certificate.

PRINCE HENRY

Peace!

[Reads] 'I will imitate the honourable Romans in brevity:'

POINS

He sure means brevity in breath,
short-winded.

PRINCE HENRY

'I commend me to thee, I commend thee, and I leave thee. Be not too familiar with Poins; for he misuses thy favours so much, that he swears thou art to marry his sister Nell. Repent at idle times as thou mayest; and so, farewell. Thine, by yea and no, which is as much as to say, as thou usest him, JACK FALSTAFF with my familiars, JOHN with my brothers and sisters, and SIR JOHN with all Europe.'

POINS

My lord, I'll steep this letter in sack and make him eat it.

PRINCE HENRY

That's to make him eat twenty of his words. But do you use me thus, Ned? Must I marry your sister?

POINS

God send the wench no worse fortune! But I never said so.

PRINCE HENRY

(to Page)

Is your master here in London?

PAGE

Yea, my lord.

PRINCE HENRY

Where sups he? Doth the old boar feed in the old frank?

PAGE

At the old place, my lord, in Eastcheap.

PRINCE HENRY

Sup any women with him?

PAGE

None, my lord, but old Mistress Quickly and Mistress Doll Tearsheet.

PRINCE HENRY

Shall we steal upon them, Ned, at supper?

POINS

I am your shadow, my lord; I'll follow you.

PRINCE HENRY

Sirrah, you boy, no word to your master that I am yet come to town: there's for your silence.

PAGE

I have no tongue, sir.

PRINCE HENRY

Fare you well; go.

Exit Page

PRINCE HENRY

How might we see Falstaff bestow himself to-night in his true colours, and not ourselves be seen?

POINS

Put on two leathern jerkins and aprons, and wait upon him at his table as drawers.

PRINCE HENRY

From a prince to a prentice? A low transformation! That shall be mine; for in every thing the purpose must weigh with the folly. Follow me, Ned.

Exeunt

Scene 2

London. The Boar's-head Tavern.

Mistress Quickly and Doll Tearsheet are drinking. PISTOL sits separately, drinks alone.

Enter, behind, PRINCE HENRY and POINS, disguised.

DOLL TEARSHEET

Sirrah, what humour's the prince of?

FALSTAFF

A good shallow young fellow: he would have made a good pantler, he would ha' chipp'd bread well.

DOLL TEARSHEET

They say Poin's has a good wit.

FALSTAFF

He a good wit? Hang him, baboon! His wit's as thick as Tewksbury mustard; there's no more conceit in him than is in a mallet.

PRINCE HENRY

Would not this nave of a wheel have his ears cut off?

POINS

Let's beat him before his whore.

PRINCE HENRY

Look, whether the withered elder hath not his poll clawed like a parrot.

FALSTAFF

Kiss me, Doll.

POINS

Is it not strange that desire should so many years
outlive performance?

FALSTAFF

Thou dost give me flattering busses.

DOLL TEARSHEET

By my troth, I kiss thee with a most constant heart.

FALSTAFF

I am old, I am old.

DOLL TEARSHEET

I love thee better than I love e'er a scurvy young
boy of them all.

FALSTAFF

I shall receive
money o' Thursday: shalt have a cap to-morrow. A
merry song, come: it grows late; we'll to bed.
Thou'lt forget me when I am gone.

DOLL TEARSHEET

By my troth, thou'lt set me a-weeping, an thou
sayest so:

FALSTAFF

Some sack, Francis.

PRINCE HENRY/POINS

Anon, anon, sir.

Coming forward

FALSTAFF

Ha! a bastard son of the king's?

PRINCE HENRY

Why, thou globe of sinful continents! What a life
dost thou lead!

FALSTAFF

A better than thou: I am a gentleman; thou art a drawer.

PRINCE HENRY

Very true, sir; and I come to draw you out by the ears.

MISTRESS QUICKLY

O, the Lord preserve thy good grace! By my troth,
welcome to London. Now, the Lord bless that sweet
face of thine!

FALSTAFF

Thou whoreson mad compound of majesty,
(indicating Doll)
by this light flesh and corrupt blood, thou art welcome.

DOLL TEARSHEET

How, you fat fool! I scorn you.

POINS

My lord, he will drive you out of your revenge and
turn all to a merriment, if you take not the heat.

PRINCE HENRY

You whoreson candle-mine, you, how vilely did you
speak of me even now before this honest, virtuous,
civil gentlewoman!

MISTRESS QUICKLY

God's blessing of your good heart! And so she is,
by my troth.

FALSTAFF

Didst thou hear me?

PRINCE HENRY

Yea, and you knew you knew I was at your back, and
spoke it on purpose to try my patience.

FALSTAFF

No, no, no; not so; I did not think thou wast within hearing.

PRINCE HENRY

I shall drive you then to confess the wilful abuse;
and then I know how to handle you.

FALSTAFF

No abuse, Hal, o' mine honour, no abuse.

PRINCE HENRY

Not to dispraise me, and call me pantier and bread-chipper and I know not what?

FALSTAFF

No abuse, Hal.

POINS

No abuse?

FALSTAFF

No abuse, Ned, i' the world; honest Ned, none. I dispraised him before the wicked, that the wicked might not fall in love with him; in which doing, I have done the part of a careful friend and a true subject, and thy father is to give me thanks for it. No abuse, Hal: none, Ned, none: no, faith, boys, none.

PRINCE HENRY

See now, whether pure fear and entire cowardice doth not make thee wrong this virtuous gentlewoman? Is she of the wicked? Is thine hostess here of the wicked?

POINS

Answer, thou dead elm, answer.

FALSTAFF

For one of them, she is in hell already, and burns poor souls. For the other, I owe her money, and whether she be damned for that, I know not.

MISTRESS QUICKLY

No, I warrant you.

FALSTAFF

No, I think thou art not; I think thou art quit for that. Marry, there is another indictment upon thee, for suffering flesh to be eaten in thy house, contrary to the law; for the which I think thou wilt howl.

MISTRESS QUICKLY

All victuallers do so; what's a joint of mutton or two in a whole Lent?

PRINCE HENRY

You, gentlewoman,-

DOLL TEARSHEET

What says your grace?

FALSTAFF

His grace says that which his flesh rebels against.

Knocking within

MISTRESS QUICKLY

Who knocks so loud at door? Look to the door there, Francis.

Enter Servant

PRINCE HENRY

How now! What news?

SERVANT

The king your father is at Westminster.

PRINCE HENRY

Give me my sword and cloak. Falstaff, good night.

Exeunt PRINCE HENRY and POINS

FALSTAFF

Now comes in the sweetest morsel of the night, and we must hence and leave it unpicked.

The Servant stays where he is. Falstaff notices him

FALSTAFF (cont)

How now! What's the matter?

SERVANT

You must away to court, sir, presently;
Master Shallow stays at door for you.

FALSTAFF

Farewell, hostess; farewell, Doll. You see, my good wenches,
how men of merit are sought after: the undeserver
may sleep, when the man of action is called on.
Farewell good wenches: if I be not sent away post,
I will see you again ere I go.

DOLL TEARSHEET

I cannot speak; if my heart be not read to burst,--
well, sweet Jack, have a care of thyself.

FALSTAFF

Farewell, farewell.

ACT VIII, Scene. 1

A Chamber at the Palace.

King Henry lies in bed, asleep, his crown on the pillow.

Enter Prince Henry

PRINCE HENRY

Why doth the crown lie there upon his pillow,
Being so troublesome a bedfellow?
O polish'd perturbation! Golden care!
That keep'st the ports of slumber open wide
To many a watchful night! Sleep with it now!

Henry believes the king to be dead

PRINCE HENRY (con't)

O majesty! My gracious lord! My father!
This sleep is sound indeed, this is a sleep
That from this golden rigol hath divorced
So many English kings. Thy due from me
Is tears and heavy sorrows of the blood,
Which nature, love, and filial tenderness,
Shall, O dear father, pay thee plenteously:
My due from thee is this imperial crown,
Which, as immediate as thy place and blood,
Derives itself to me. Lo, here it sits,
Which God shall guard: and put the world's whole strength
Into one giant arm, it shall not force

This lineal honour from me: this from thee
Will I to mine leave, as 'tis left to me.

Henry begins to exit, the king wakes

KING HENRY IV

Why did you leave me here alone, my lords?

Henry stops in shock.

KING HENRY IV

Where is the crown? Who took it from my pillow?

The King notices Henry with the crown

KING HENRY IV

Come hither to me, Harry.

PRINCE HENRY

I never thought to hear you speak again.

KING HENRY IV

Thy wish was father, Harry, to that thought:
I stay too long by thee, I weary thee.
Dost thou so hunger for mine empty chair
That thou wilt needs invest thee with my honours
Before thy hour be ripe? O foolish youth!
Thou seek'st the greatness that will o'erwhelm thee.
Thou hast stolen that which after some few hours
Were thine without offence; and at my death
Thou hast seal'd up my expectation:
Thy life did manifest thou lovedst me not,
And thou wilt have me die assured of it.

What! Canst thou not forbear me half an hour?
Then get thee gone and dig my grave thyself,
And bid the merry bells ring to thine ear
That thou art crowned, not that I am dead.
Give that which gave thee life unto the worms.

PRINCE HENRY

O, pardon me, my liege! There is your crown;
And He that wears the crown immortally

Long guard it yours! When I here came in,
And found no course of breath within your majesty,
How cold it struck my heart! If I do feign,
O, let me in my present wildness die
And never live to show the incredulous world
The noble change that I have purposed!
Coming to look on you, thinking you dead,
I spake unto this crown as having sense,
And thus upbraided it: 'The care on thee depending
Hath fed upon the body of my father;
And thou, most fine, most honour'd: most renown'd,
Hast eat thy bearer up.' Thus, my most royal liege,
Accusing it, I put it on my head,
To try with it, as with an enemy
That had before my face murder'd my father,
The quarrel of a true inheritor.
But if it did infect my blood with joy,
Or swell my thoughts to any strain of pride;
If any rebel or vain spirit of mine
Did with the least affection of a welcome
Give entertainment to the might of it,
Let God for ever keep it from my head!

KING HENRY IV

O my son,
God put it in thy mind to take it hence,
That thou mightst win the more thy father's love,
Pleading so wisely in excuse of it!
Come hither, Harry, sit thou by my bed;
And hear, I think, the very latest counsel
That ever I shall breathe. God knows, my son,
By what by-paths and indirect crook'd ways
I met this crown; and I myself know well
How troublesome it sat upon my head.
Yet, though thou stand'st more sure than I could do,
Thou art not firm enough, since griefs are green;
And all my friends, which thou must make thy friends,

Have but their stings and teeth newly ta'en out;
Therefore, my Harry,
Be it thy course to busy giddy minds
With foreign quarrels; that action, hence borne out,
May waste the memory of the former days.

More would I, but my lungs are wasted so
That strength of speech is utterly denied me.
How I came by the crown, O God forgive;
And grant it may with thee in true peace live!

PRINCE HENRY

My gracious liege,
You won it, wore it, kept it, gave it me;
Then plain and right must my possession be:
Which I with more than with a common pain
'Gainst all the world will rightfully maintain.

KING HENRY IV

It hath been prophesied to me many years,
I should not die but in Jerusalem.

The King dies. By this time, Westmoreland and others have entered the chamber. Henry notices them and addresses them

KING HENRY V

My father is gone wild into his grave,
For in his tomb lie my affections;
And with his spirit sadly I survive,
To mock the expectation of the world.
Now call we our high court of parliament:
And let us choose such limbs of noble counsel,
That the great body of our state may go
In equal rank with the best govern'd nation;
That war, or peace, or both at once, may be
As things acquainted and familiar to us.
And, God consigning to my good intents,
No prince nor peer shall have just cause to say,
God shorten Harry's happy life one day!

ACT IX, SCENE I.

Pistol finds Falstaff alive and well.

PISTOL

Sir John, God save you!

FALSTAFF

What wind blew you hither, Pistol?

PISTOL

Not the ill wind which blows no man to good. Sweet knight, thou art now one of the greatest men in this realm. Thy tender lambkin now is king; Harry the Fifth's the man. I speak the truth:

FALSTAFF

What, is the old king dead?

PISTOL

As nail in door: the things I speak are just.

FALSTAFF

Saddle my horse. Master Robert Shallow, choose what office thou wilt in the land, 'tis thine. Pistol, I will double-charge thee with dignities.

PISTOL

What! I do bring good news.

FALSTAFF

Carry Master Silence to bed. Master Shallow, my Lord Shallow,--be what thou wilt; I am fortune's steward--get on thy boots: we'll ride all night. O sweet Pistol! Boot, boot, Master Shallow: I know the young king is sick for me. Let us take any man's horses; the laws of England are at my commandment. Blessed are they that have been my friends!

PISTOL

Let vultures vile seize on his lungs also!
'Where is the life that late I led?' Say they:
Why, here it is; welcome these pleasant days!

Exeunt

SCENE 2. A public place near Westminster Abbey.

Enter FALSTAFF, et al, expecting his old friend Hal, now the new king Henry V, to treat him the same as always. But it's as if the old Henry no longer exists.

Enter KING HENRY V and his train

FALSTAFF

God save thy grace, King Hal! My royal Hal!

Henry ignores him.

FALSTAFF

God save thee, my sweet boy!

Still ignores.

FALSTAFF

My king! My Jove! I speak to thee, my heart!

KING HENRY V

I know thee not, old man: fall to thy prayers;
How ill white hairs become a fool and jester!
I have long dream'd of such a kind of man,
So surfeit-swell'd, so old and so profane;
But, being awaked, I do despise my dream.
Reply not to me with a fool-born jest:
Presume not that I am the thing I was;
For God doth know, so shall the world perceive,
That I have turn'd away my former self;
So will I those that kept me company.
When thou dost hear I am as I have been,
Approach me, and thou shalt be as thou wast,
The tutor and the feeder of my riots:
Till then, I banish thee, on pain of death,
As I have done the rest of my misleaders,
Not to come near our person by ten mile.
For competence of life I will allow you,
That lack of means enforce you not to evil:
And, as we hear you do reform yourselves,
We will, according to your strengths and qualities,
Give you advancement. Be it your charge, my lord,
To see perform'd the tenor of our word. Set on.

Exeunt KING HENRY V, & c

FALSTAFF

Master Shallow, I owe you a thousand pound.

SHALLOW

Yea, marry, Sir John; which I beseech you to let me have home with me.

FALSTAFF

That can hardly be, Master Shallow. Do not you grieve at this; I shall be sent for in private to him: look you, he must seem thus to the world: fear not your advancements; I will be the man yet that shall make you great.

SHALLOW

I cannot well perceive how, unless you should give me your doublet and stuff me out with straw. I beseech you, good Sir John, let me have five hundred of my thousand.

FALSTAFF

Sir, I will be as good as my word: this that you heard was but a colour.

SHALLOW

A colour that I fear you will die in, Sir John.

FALSTAFF

Fear no colours: go with me to dinner: come, Lieutenant Pistol; come, Bardolph: I shall be sent for soon at night.

Enter WESTMORELAND and Officers with them

WESTMORELAND

Go, carry Sir John Falstaff to the Fleet:
Take all his company along with him.

FALSTAFF

My lord, my lord,--

WESTMORELAND

I cannot now speak: I will hear you soon.
Take them away.

Exeunt all but WESTMORELAND and Sir Walter Blunt

SIR WALTER BLUNT

The king hath call'd his parliament, my lord.

WESTMORELAND

He hath.

SIR WALTER BLUNT

I will lay odds that, ere this year expire,
We bear our civil swords and native fire
As far as France: I heard a bird so sing,
Whose music, to my thinking, pleased the king.
Come, will you hence?

Exeunt

After the play:
Additional Discussion Questions and Activities

1. Although silly at times, this play brings up many serious topics of interest to young people. Use the Anticipation Guide to get your students talking. Some of the related topics have to do with friends, responsibility, maturity, growing up too fast, self-concept, parental expectations, and patriotism.
2. Shakespeare employs some cheap humour at the expense of the rotund Falstaff. An interesting discussion might relate to that, the stereotype of the “jolly fat rascal,” and why, in real life, jokes at the expense of someone’s physical experience are not really funny.
3. Students imagine themselves as parents, and write fictional letters of advice to various characters from fiction and modern popular culture. They might choose to write to characters as diverse as Holden Caulfield, or Jean Louise (Scout) Finch, or even Bart Simpson. They might then exchange letters with a classmate and write the response in the persona of the character.
4. Write original poetry to reflect a variety of views and situations in friendships, and in parent-child relationships.

5. Read and discuss a variety of poems which reflect different facets of war, friendship and parent-child relationships. Here are some of my favourites:

“The Man He Killed” by Thomas Hardy
“On My First Son” by Ben Johnson
“Life with Father” by Walter McDonald
“To a Daughter Leaving Home” by Linda Pastan
“Anthem for Doomed Youth” by Wilfred Owen
“My Papa’s Waltz” by Theodore Roethke
“Beat, Beat, Drums” by Walt Whitman
“Dandelion” by Judy Lechevsky
“Mother to Son” by Langston Hughes
“War Is Kind” by Stephen Crane

Check out these links!

http://absoluteshakespeare.com/pictures/king_henry_fourth_part_1.htm

http://absoluteshakespeare.com/pictures/king_henry_fourth_part_ii.htm

Pictures of Falstaff set in the specific related text. Be sure also to check out the home page for <http://absoluteshakespeare.com>

About a billion great resources!

<http://www.bardweb.net/>

Website of the Shakespeare Resource Center.

<http://www.cummingsstudyguides.net/>

Background, setting, and some epigrams with discussion. Plus more!

<http://rmarkdwhite.files.wordpress.com/2008/11/falstaff.jpg>

See what Falstaff looks like!

www.folger.com

The official website for the Folger Library. MANY great resources!

http://www.rsc.org.uk/content/91_480.aspx

The Royal Shakespeare Company's official website. Some great materials for this play and others.

<http://www.shaksper.net>

"The Global Electronic Shakespeare Conference" – a moderated discussion list.