

Spotlight Guide 2021 - 2022

Henry IV, Part 2

by William Shakespeare

King Henry's health is failing but he is uncertain Hal is a worthy heir. Meanwhile, Falstaff is sent to the countryside to recruit fresh troops, where he gleefully indulges in the business of lining his own pockets. As the King's health continues to worsen, Hal must choose between duty and loyalty to an old friend in Shakespeare's heartbreaking conclusion to this pair of plays.

Lesson Plan and Activities

Page to Stage Lesson Plan - In this lesson, students will read and analyze an excerpt from Act I, Prologue of William Shakespeare's *Henry IV, part 2* using the included handouts.

Shakespeare Taboo - Students will gain a new appreciation for Shakespeare's contribution to the English language.

Paraphrasing - Students unlock Shakespeare's text by rewording of the meaning of the lines into their vernacular.

Write a Review - After seeing the production, have each student write a review of Orlando Shakes' production of *Henry IV, part 2*

Discussion & Themes -

1. King Henry IV accuses his son, Prince Hal, of having patricidal fantasies. Is Henry right to suggest that Hal wants his father dead? Why or why not?
2. How does Shakespeare juxtapose "high" matters of state (the rebellion, the question of kingly succession, etc.) with "low" comedic matters (Falstaff's antics, the tavern scenes, and so on)? Can we make any specific parallels? If so, what are they and what purpose do such parallels serve?
3. Hal's rejection of Falstaff is brutal. Some literary critics say Hal's banishment of his old friend is necessary and completely justifiable. Others see it as an unforgivable betrayal. Now it's time for you to weigh in. Why does Hal banish his old friend? What does Hal's rejection of Falstaff say about Hal, his priorities, and his character?
4. Prince Hal is generally viewed as the play's protagonist. If that's true, then why is it that we rarely see him (or his father)? Why doesn't Hal make an appearance until Act 2, Scene 2

Florida Standards

LAFS.910.RL.1: Key Ideas and Details
LAFS.910.RH.1: Key Ideas and Details
LAFS.1112.SL.1: Comprehension and Collaboration
LAFS.910.W.1: Text Types and Purposes
LAFS.1112.RL.1: Key Ideas and Details
LAFS.910.RL.3: Integration of Knowledge and Ideas
TH.912.F.2: Careers in and related to the arts
TH.68.S.1: The arts are inherently experiential



PG-13

Language, Use of Alcohol, Suggestive Themes, Violence

Most appropriate for Grade 8 and up. Children under 5 will not be admitted to the theater.