

QUICK CARD:

2 HENRY IV



<p><i>Reference</i></p>	<p>2 <i>Henry IV</i>. William Shakespeare. (c. 1600) ISBN-10: 1904271375 ISBN-13: 978-1904271376 The third part of Shakespeare's second tetrad in the English history plays: <i>Richard II, 1 Henry IV, 2 Henry IV, Henry V</i></p>
<p><i>Plot</i></p>	<p>2 <i>Henry IV</i> opens after the events of 1 <i>Henry IV</i> in which the prodigal Prince Hal against all expectations kills the much-admired Harry Hotspur for rebelling against his father. Now the rebels are re-gathering to launch a second attack against Henry IV with the added religious backing of the Archbishop of York. Meanwhile Hal's longtime friend and reprobate father-figure Falstaff finds himself in trouble with the law. He begs off by taking up the call to join the king's forces in battle. Hal wrestles with his identify as the crown prince and his unseemly love of low-living and distasteful company. Hal's brother wins the day against the rebels through negotiation and trickery instead of bloodshed, and Falstaff arrives just in time to take credit for claiming a wandering rebel as prisoner. The good news of victory is taken to the king, who immediately falls ill and takes to bed. Hal visits him there, and thinking his father dead wanders away with the crown to contemplate his fate. His father wakes up, and thinking Hal too eager for power, furiously chides his son. Hal begs forgiveness, saying he took the crown as if to wrestle with his father's murderer. The king is touched and peacefully passes the crown to his son before dying. Hal then resolves to change his profligate ways, embraces the power of the Chief Justice upon taking the throne, and banishes Falstaff in one of the most heart-wrenching scenes of English literature.</p>
<p><i>Setting</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Toward the end of Henry IV's reign (c. 1413) • The English court and battlefield • Taverns and gathering places of the common "low life" • A time of civil war: the rebels hope to revenge Richard II, from whom Henry IV usurped the crown as recounted in <i>Richard II</i>
<p><i>Characters</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rumor: Chorus to the play. A self-reported deceiver. Sets the tone. • Henry IV or Henry Bolingbroke: Father to Hal. Usurped the throne from Richard II. • Prince Harry or Prince Hal (Henry V): The prodigal son of the king. A lover of good times, the kingdom fears the disorder his reign will bring. • Harry's brothers: (Prince John of Lancaster, Humphrey Duke of Gloucester, Thomas Duke of Clarence) • The Rebels: (Percy Earl of Northumberland, Lady Northumberland, Scrope Archbishop of York, Lord Bardolph, Thomas Lord Mowbray, Lord Hastings, Sir John Coleville) • Lord Chief Justice: embodiment of unyielding justice in the play

<p><i>Characters</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sir John Falstaff: An early father figure and close friend of Harry's. Given to food, drink, and women. Deceitful, but also called one of the truest hearts. • Poin: a common soldier and companion of Harry's. Disliked by Falstaff. • Various common acquaintances to Falstaff and Harry: (Pistol, Bardolph, the Page, Peto, Mistress Quickly, Doll Tearsheet) • Robert Shallow and Silence: country justices. Shallow is a former acquaintance of Falstaff in youth. • Supporters of Henry IV: (Neville Earl of Warwick, Early of Surrey, Earl of Westmorland, Harcourt, Sir John Blunt) • Mouldy, Shadow, Wart, Feeble, and Bullcalf: (Men levied by Shallow for Falstaff to take to battle) • Various servants, messengers, grooms, etc. • Epilogue: thought to have been played by the clown, who would also play Falstaff.
<p><i>Conflict</i></p>	<p>Man vs. Himself: Will Harry choose order over disorder? Which of his two father figures will he choose?</p> <p>Man vs. Society: Will Harry take on the traditionally accepted behavior of a king or will his reign meet the public's sour expectations?</p> <p>Man vs. Man: Will Henry IV's line keep the throne or will he be overthrown? Will order or chaos reign?</p>
<p><i>Theme</i></p>	<p>The tension of grace and justice, order and disorder in human life.</p> <p>The commonness of human nature in the face of noble responsibilities.</p> <p>The role of Fate and its unasked for responsibilities.</p> <p>The duty of sons to fathers.</p> <p>The duty of friendship.</p>
<p><i>Literary Devices</i></p>	<p>Blank verse (however, this play contains the most prose of any of Shakespeare's works)</p> <p>Puns/ Double Meaning</p> <p>Theatrical Drama</p> <p>Dramatic Irony</p> <p>Metaphors and Similes</p>