

QUICK CARD: *HENRY V*



<p><i>Reference</i></p>	<p><i>Henry V</i>. William Shakespeare. (c. 1599) ISBN-13: 978-0393979312 The final play in Shakespeare's second tetrad of English history plays: <i>Richard II</i>, <i>1 Henry IV</i>, <i>2 Henry IV</i>, <i>Henry V</i>.</p>
<p><i>Plot</i></p>	<p>Upon ascending the throne, King Henry V is highly encouraged by his advisors to pursue his "rightful" claim to the French throne. Assembling his army and putting to death some traitors found in his ranks, Henry sails to France where he immediately besieges the city of Harfleur. The victory there leaves Henry's army sick and depleted. Heavily outnumbered by the French, they despair of taking the day at Agincourt. After sentencing a former friend of his to death for petty theft, Henry disguises himself as a common soldier and walks among his men in the night. He is confronted by their lack of confidence in the king's cause and his own responsibility for their lives. Henry recognizes his human fallibility and prays for God's intervention. The English achieve a supernatural win at Agincourt, and Henry shares the glory with his "brother" soldiers, giving ultimate credit to God. In a negotiation for peace with France, Henry is given the French king's daughter in marriage and woos her to win her love. We are told that their son, heralded as the perfect unification of the French and English kingdoms, will be too weak to hold onto France.</p>
<p><i>Setting</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 14th century England in the early years of Henry V's reign. • Following the usurpation of the throne by Henry IV from Richard II and preceding the weak reign of Henry VI who will be unable to prevent the War of the Roses. • The royal courts of England and France. The battlefield. • Due to the Chorus, we are conscious of the fact that this is a stage and we are viewing a theatrical production.
<p><i>Characters</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chorus, an impartial (?) observer of the staged events • Henry V, newly instated king of England; formerly "Prince Harry" or "Prince Hal" • Dukes of Gloucester and Clarence, Henry's brothers • Duke of Exeter, Henry's uncle • Loyal English nobles: (Duke of York, Salisbury, Westmorland, Warwick) • Archbishop of Canterbury, donates church funds to the French cause so that Henry will not confiscate church lands • Bishop of Ely • English traitors: (Richard Earl of Cambridge, Henry Lord Scrope of Masham, Sir Thomas Grey) • Henry's former friends and commoners: (Pistol, Nim, Bardolph, Boy, Hostess)

<i>Characters</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Captains in the English army: (Gower, Fluellen, Macmorris, Jamy, Sir Thomas Erpingham) • Common English soldiers: (John Bates, Alexander Court, Michael Williams) • French court: (King Charles VI, Queen Isabel, The Dauphin, the Constable of France, Duke of Bourbon, Duke of Orleans, Duke of Berri, Duke Rambures, Lord Grandpre, Duke of Burgundy, Montjoy, Governor of Harfleur, French Ambassadors) • Catherine, daughter of the French king and future bride of Henry • Alice, her lady in waiting
<i>Conflict</i>	<p>Man vs. Himself – Henry vs. his desire to be a good king. Man vs. Society – Henry vs. England’s idea of a good king Man vs. Man – England vs. France</p>
<i>Theme</i>	<p>Justice vs. Mercy The imperfection of man Leaders as fallible men A nation’s understanding of its own history</p>
<i>Literary Devices</i>	<p>Blank verse Theatrical drama Dramatic irony Puns / Double Meaning</p>