

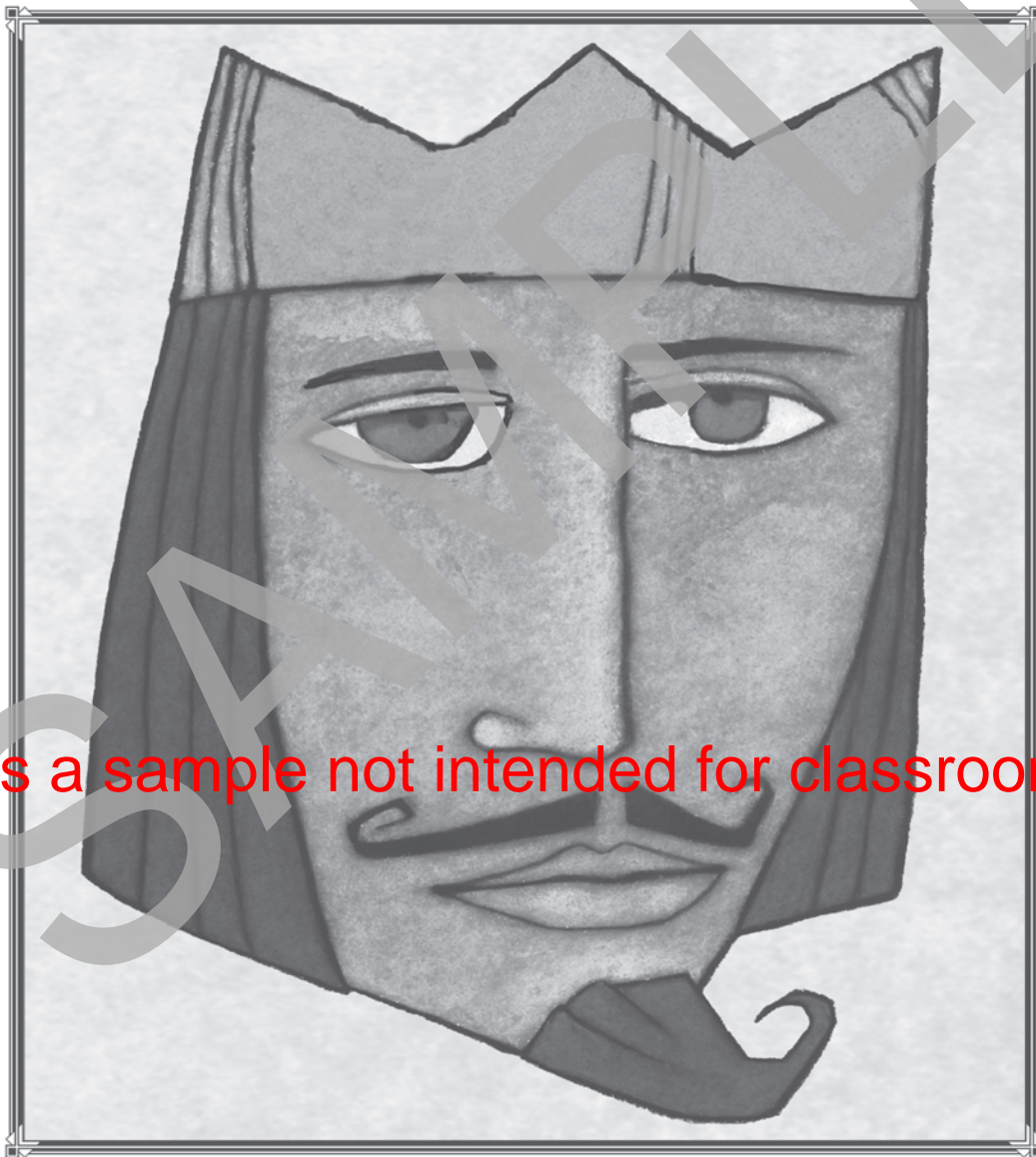


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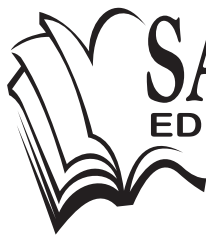
# SHAKESPEARE

## MADE EASY

### *Henry IV, Part One*



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# SADDLEBACK

## EDUCATIONAL PUBLISHING

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## To the Teacher

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As any teacher or student who has read Shakespeare knows, his plays are not easy. They are thought-provoking and complex texts that abound with romance, deceit, tragedy, comedy, revenge, and humanity shown at its very worst as well as its very best. In short, to read Shakespeare is to explore the depths and heights of humanity.

The *Shakespeare Made Easy* Activity Guides are designed by teachers for teachers to help students navigate this journey. Each guide is broken into six sections of four activities and one review. At the end of each guide is a final test, a variety of culminating activities, and an answer key. The activities are meant to aid textual comprehension, provide creative

opportunities for the reader to make personal connections with the text, and help busy teachers gain quick access to classroom-tested and age-appropriate activities that make the teaching of Shakespeare an easier task.

Each regular activity, as well as each culminating activity, can be modified to be an individual or a group task, and the reviews and test can be used as quick comprehension checks or formally scored assessments. The guides may be used in conjunction with the Barron's *Shakespeare Made Easy* texts or alone. Ultimately, the *Shakespeare Made Easy* Activity Guides are intended to assist teachers and students in gaining an increased understanding of and appreciation for the reading of Shakespeare.

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## Introduction to the Play

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### Background to *Henry IV, Part One*

*Henry IV, Part One* is actually a sequel to Shakespeare's play *Richard II*. Richard II was crowned King of England on July 16, 1377, when he was only ten years old. A Regency Council was formed to govern because Richard was so young. The council included six earls, three of which were Richard's uncles: John of Gaunt, the Duke of Lancaster (father of Henry Bolingbroke, who becomes Henry IV); Edmund of Langley (also known as the Duke of York); and Thomas of Woodstock (also known as the Earl of Gloucester).

However, once Richard II became older, he rejected the control of the council and conspired to eliminate their control over England. Also, Richard II alienated many of the old and titled earls of England by lavishing gifts and titles on his favorites, Robert de Vere, Earl of Oxford, and Michael de la Pole, Earl of Suffolk. This led to accusations of treason and great disorder in England. In one of his political moves, Richard II exiled John of Gaunt's son, Henry Bolingbroke, for ten years. Once Henry was out of the picture and John of Gaunt died, Richard changed the exile from ten years to life and took over the estate of Henry's uncle, John of Gaunt. This was an illegal seizure of property and money, and it served to alienate many against Richard II.

Being informed of Richard II's actions regarding his inheritance, Henry Bolingbroke, supported by allies, returned to England to

demand his rights to his father's estate. The families who helped Henry in his quest were the earls of Northumberland and Worcester, who were brothers, and Northumberland's son, Hotspur. Not only did Bolingbroke win back his family's estate, but he and his allies also deposed Richard II, imprisoned him, and crowned Henry King Henry IV. One of Henry IV's first acts was to arrange for the murder of the deposed Richard.

The opening of *Henry IV, Part One* continues the story of Henry IV's reign and the problems he faces with his guilt over Richard's death, his struggles with his profligate son Hal, and the growing disloyalty of the earls who helped him achieve the throne.

### Synopsis of *Henry IV, Part One*

#### Act one, Scene 1

King Henry IV is disappointed that he cannot launch a crusade to the Holy Land because of all the problems in England. He promises to Westmoreland that he will try to solve England's internal problems. New trouble appears as Westmoreland reports that Glendower, a Welsh chieftan, has captured the King's cousin, Mortimer, and that Mortimer has married the daughter of Glendower. However, King Henry is cheered by the additional report that Hotspur has been successful against the Earl of Douglas and has taken prisoners in the northern part of England near Scotland. While King Henry is pleased with

*Hostler:* A groomer in a stable

*Chamberlain:* Takes care of rooms in an inn, and sometimes sets up the travelers for robbery

*First Traveler*

### Other Minor Characters

*Sheriff, Servant to Hotspur, Messenger, Second Messenger, Soldiers, Travelers, Lords, Attendants*

### Shakespeare and Stage Directions

The plays of Shakespeare are so well written that they seem to leap off the page and come to life. However, the plays themselves have very few stage directions. Perhaps this is because Shakespeare's plays were performed in large amphitheaters that were very simple.

This was a time before electric lights, so the plays needed to take place during the day to utilize the natural light. The average time for a performance was between noon and two in the afternoon. Theater historians report that there were typically no intermissions; plays ran from beginning to end without a break and took about two hours.

The set might be painted canvas to illustrate whether the play was occurring in a forest or a town, for example. Sometimes the background was accompanied by a sign that indicated the place as well. Props were few and large: a table, a chariot, gallows, a bed, or a throne.

However, the audience attending Shakespeare's plays expected a spectacle for the price of

admission. Therefore, there were many devices to produce a gasp from the audience. For example, a device in the loft of the theater could raise and lower actors so that they could play gods, ghosts, or other unusual characters. Additionally, a trapdoor in the stage offered a chance for a quick appearance or disappearance. The actors could suggest a beheading or hanging with various illusions on the stage. Sound effects suggesting thunder, horses, or war were common. Music was important, and drums and horns were often played.

Most important to the sense of spectacle were the costumes worn by the actors. These were elaborate, colorful, and very expensive. Therefore, they often purchased these outfits from servants who had inherited the clothes from their masters or from hangmen, who received the clothes of their victims as payment for their services.

Though Shakespeare's stage directions are sparse, definition of a few key terms will be helpful for the reader. The following is a brief glossary of stage directions commonly found in Shakespeare's plays.

### Selected Glossary of Stage Directions in Shakespeare's Plays

**Above:** an indication that the actor speaking from above is on a higher balcony or other scaffold that is higher than the other actors

**Alarum:** a stage signal that calls the soldiers to battle; usually trumpets, drums, and shouts

**Aside:** words spoken by the actor so the audience overhears but the other actors on

the stage do not. An aside may also be spoken to one other actor so that the others on stage do not overhear.

**Calls within:** a voice offstage that calls to a character on the stage

**Curtains:** Curtains were fabrics draped around a bed that could be opened or closed for privacy.

**Draw:** Actors pull their swords from their sheaths.

**Enter:** a direction for a character to enter the stage. This can be from the audience's right (stage right) or the audience's left (stage left).

**Enter Chorus:** a direction for an actor to come to the center of the stage and offer some introductory comments, usually in blank verse or rhyming couplets. In *Romeo and Juliet*, the Chorus delivers a sonnet, a form of poetry associated with love.

**Exeunt:** All characters leave the stage, or those characters named leave the stage.

**Exit:** One character leaves the stage.

**Flourish:** A group of trumpets or other horn instruments play a brief melody.

**Have at:** Characters begin to fight, usually with swords.

**Pageant:** a show or spectacle of actors in unusual costumes, usually without words

**Prologue:** an introduction spoken by the Chorus that gives an overview to the audience and invites them into the play or scene

**Retires:** A character slips away.

**Sennet:** a series of notes sounded on brass instruments to announce the approach or departure of a procession

**Singing:** a signal for the actor to sing the following lines as a tune

**Within:** voices or sounds occurring offstage but heard by the audience

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## Introduction to Shakespeare

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### A Brief Biography of William Shakespeare

William Shakespeare was born in April 1564 to John and Mary Shakespeare in Stratford-upon-Avon, England. His birthday is celebrated on April 23. This is memorable because April 23 is also the day Shakespeare died in 1616.

Shakespeare was the eldest of nine children in his family, six of whom survived to adulthood.

William Shakespeare's father worked with leather and became a successful merchant early in his career. He held some relatively important government offices. However, when William was in his early teens, his father's financial position began to slide due to growing debt. After many years, John Shakespeare's fortunes and respect were restored, but records indicate that the years of debt and lawsuits were very stressful.

Historians assume that young Will went to school and took a rigorous course of study including Latin, history, and biblical study. In 1582, at the age of eighteen, he married Anne Hathaway, who was three months pregnant.

Studies of Elizabethan family life indicate that Anne's situation was not unusual since it was accepted that the engagement period was as legally binding as the marriage. The couple had a daughter, Susanna, followed by twins, Hamnet and Judith. Not much is known about Shakespeare during the next seven years, but his name is listed as an actor in London by 1592. This was a difficult time for the theater

because measures to prevent the spread of the plague regularly closed the theaters.

Between 1594 and 1595, Shakespeare joined the Chamberlain's Men as a playwright and an actor. The acting company featured actor Richard Burbage, and they were a favorite of Queen Elizabeth I. During this time, Shakespeare was writing such plays as *Romeo and Juliet* and *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. Even though Shakespeare was enjoying great success by the time he was 32, it was dampened by the death of his son, Hamnet, in 1596. Soon after, Shakespeare refocused on his home in Stratford where he bought an estate called New Place, with gardens, orchards, and barns in addition to the main home. He still maintained a home in London near the theater.

In 1599, Shakespeare wrote *Henry V*, *Julius Caesar*, and *As You Like It*. The Globe Playhouse was up and running, with Shakespeare a 10 percent owner. This means that he was able to earn 10 percent of any show's profits. This business position helped him solidify his wealth.

In 1603, Shakespeare's reputation earned his acting troop the sponsorship of James I, who requested one play performance per month. Their name changed to the King's Men. By this time, Shakespeare had written and performed in almost all of his comedies and histories. He was proclaimed the finest playwright in London.



## ACTIVITY 1

# Clarifying Circumstances

Act one, Scenes 1–3

**Background** *Henry IV, Part One* can be a confusing play due to the many characters and events.

**Directions** Find the answers to the following questions so that you have a clearer picture of who are allies or enemies and what is occurring as the play begins. Use another sheet of paper, if necessary.

1. Based on the King's opening speech, what is a crusade (the battle that the king talks about when he says that all men shall join and "march one way")? Who are they fighting and for what purpose?
2. Why does King Henry have to put off the crusade?
3. Who was captured by the Welsh bandit Glendower?
4. The King's son, Henry, Prince of Wales, is also referred to as \_\_\_\_\_ by his father and \_\_\_\_\_ by Falstaff.
5. Henry (also referred to as Harry) Percy, commonly known as Hotspur, fought against whom and won? Who were his prisoners?  
6. Comparing his son (the Prince) and Hotspur, what does the King wish? How do the two young men compare in the King's eyes (refer to Scene 1, lines 77–90)?
7. According to Westmoreland, why is Hotspur not relinquishing all of his prisoners to the King?

(continued)



ACTIVITY 2

*Paraphrasing the Prince*

Act one, Scene 2

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**Background** The prince and his friends spend most of this scene carousing in his apartment. After they leave, Prince Henry delivers a soliloquy during which we learn that he does not plan to lead his present lifestyle much longer.

**Directions** Write the speech by Prince Henry in lines 181–203 in your own words to better understand why he seems to embrace the criminal lifestyle despite his royalty.

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**ACTIVITY 3**

***Falstaff the Clown***

**Act one, Scene 2**

**Background** John Falstaff is one of the most beloved comic foils in all of Shakespeare’s plays. He was hugely popular with Elizabethan audiences. Shakespeare wrote him into one of his comedies, *The Merry Wives of Windsor*.

**Directions** Read the following “facts” about John Falstaff, and then find the line(s) in Act one, Scene 2 that support(s) or demonstrate(s) it.

**Fact**

**Line(s) of Support**

✓ Falstaff is a drunk.

✓ Falstaff likes women.

✓ Falstaff is not proud about money.

✓ Falstaff cares for his friend Hal.

✓ Falstaff steals for a living.

✓ Falstaff is overweight and

✓ Falstaff tells tall tales about his achievements.

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ACTIVITY 4

*The King's Spy*

Act one, Scene 3

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**Background** In Act one, Scene 3, Hotspur, Northumberland, and Worcester begin to plot a rebellion against King Henry IV.

**Directions** Imagine that you are one of King Henry's most trusted spies. Compose a brief report ( $\frac{1}{2}$  to  $\frac{3}{4}$  of a page) in which you detail the treasonous words shared between Hotspur, Northumberland, and Worcester in lines 180–296.

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## ACTIVITY 5

### Review

**Directions** Answer the following. Write the letter of the correct answer in the space provided.

- \_\_\_ 1. This play takes place in what country?
- Scotland
  - Norway
  - England
  - Denmark
- \_\_\_ 2. Which event(s) make the King put off his crusade?
- The Welsh bandit Glendower captured Mortimer.
  - His own people are staging a rebellion against him.
  - Hotspur won't give up all of his prisoners to the King.
  - Both a and c
- \_\_\_ 3. What kind of practical joke has Poins planned for Falstaff and the other thieves?
- Prince Harry will pretend to arrest all of them for pickpocketing.
  - Poins and the Prince will rob the thieves.
  - Poins has dug a sinkhole into which the thieves will fall as they try to rob people.
  - Poins will be the thief.
- \_\_\_ 4. Another name for Harry Percy is:
- the Prince
  - Worcester
  - Hal
  - Hotspur
- \_\_\_ 5. How does Hotspur explain his refusal to give the King his prisoners?
- He did not really refuse, but the messenger's haughty air made him angry and he replied curtly.
  - He has no intention of releasing the prisoners until Mortimer is ransomed.
  - There are no prisoners; Hotspur has executed them all.
  - The messenger misunderstood, and Hotspur will gladly give the King all of the prisoners.
- \_\_\_ 6. What does Hotspur believe is the true reason for the King's disdain of Mortimer?
- Mortimer was named by King Richard II as the next heir to the throne.
  - Mortimer is treasonous.
  - The King is in love with Mortimer's wife.
  - The King is afraid of Glendower.
- \_\_\_ 7. Hotspur is holding prisoners from what country?
- England
  - Scotland
  - Norway
  - France

(continued)