

# *Henry V*

## Stuff That Happens in the Play...

Stuff That Happens BEFORE the Play  
(in *Henry IV*, parts 1 and 2)

- Prince Hal has led a riotous youth with his tavern companions Falstaff, Pistol, Bardolph, Nym, Boy, and Nell.
- On his death bed, King Henry IV tells Prince Hal to “busy giddy minds with foreign quarrels.”
- After the death of his father, Prince Hal becomes King Henry V. One of his first acts is to banish Falstaff from his presence, putting his wild past behind him.

Stuff That Happens IN the Play

- To prevent a bill that would deprive them of lands and possessions, the Archbishop of Canterbury and the Bishop of Ely have offered King Henry money and the blessing of the Church for an invasion of France.
- The bishops describe to King Henry the “Salic Law,” one which the bishops interpret as entitling Henry to the French throne.
- The French Prince (Dauphin) sends King Henry a mocking reply to Henry’s claims to “certain Dukedoms” in France.
- In London, Falstaff’s friends mourn his death; Pistol, Nym, Bardolph, and Boy depart to join the King’s war on France.
- In Southampton, King Henry orders the execution of three English noblemen who have accepted French gold to murder him.
- At the French Court, King Henry’s uncle Exeter demands that the French crown and kingdom be resigned to Henry or bloodshed will follow.
- King Henry and his army lay siege to and capture the city of Harfleur.
- At the French Court, Kate, the Princess of France, asks her gentlewoman, Alice, to teach her English.
- At Agincourt, the night before battle: the French are confident of their superior numbers and yearn for the morning, when they expect sure victory while King Henry disguises himself and walks about his camp to talk with his soldiers.
- The next morning, the English army engages the French in the Battle of Agincourt.
- Praising God, wooing, and history ensue.