

# *Henry IV Part I*

by William Shakespeare

Folger Shakespeare Library Edition

## A Note from the Dramaturg

Dear Reader,

In the pages that follow, you will find a comprehensive guide to understanding *Henry IV Part I* by William Shakespeare, Folger Shakespeare Library Edition. The information I have compiled will help you pull deeper meanings from the plot, connect history and fiction, and begin to understand what is at stake for these characters. This play follows real life events of England during the reign of King Henry IV, with some dramatizations and fictionalizations. Understanding the history behind this time, place, and real people, will help you to draw new meaning from the text. With the deep knowledge of these aspects, you can give new life to this play's characters.

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# Vocabulary

## Wan (pg1)

- To grow pale

## Broils (pg1)

- Turmoil; confused fighting; battle

## Daub (pg1)

- To plaster or whitewash
- To cover with clay

## Flow'rets (pg1)

- Small flowers

## Sepulcher (pg1)

- A burial vault or tomb

## Yesternight (pg1)

- Last night

## Athwart (pg1)

- Askew; awry; out of the normal course

## Holy-rood Day (pg2)

- The 3rd day of May on which occurs the Feast of the Invention of the Cross
- The Holy-rood is a religious relic alleged to be part of the True Cross on which Jesus died

## Theme of Honor's tongue (pg2)

- The perfect example of an honorable man

## Sweet Fortune's minion (pg2)

- The darling favorite of Fortuna
  - The goddess of fortune

## Plantagenet (pg2)

- A member of the royal house that rule England from the accession of Henry II to the death of Richard III (1154-1485)
  - The royal line of English kings

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