



Featured text and image are at the forefront of each page to provide context and balance to guide deeper exploration of the topic.



Henry V by William Shakespeare

The main action of the play [Henry V] is concerned with the historical events leading up to and following the battle of Agincourt. In the first act the king decides to make war on France, having been assured by the clergy that he has a valid claim to the French throne, and by the nobility that there is strong popular support for the proposed war. The king then receives the French ambassadors, who bring him a case of tennis balls and a contemptuous message from the French dauphin. The reason that the dauphin treats him with such light regard is that when he was a prince Henry was famous for leading a gay and idle life. We have learned in the first scene, however, from a conversation between the Archbishop of Canterbury and the Bishop of Ely, that Henry has undergone a miraculous transformation since becoming king. Now he has the unqualified respect and admiration of his courtiers. The king sends word to the dauphin that he will answer this mock in the forthcoming war on France.

RELATED LINKS

- Hamlet
- King Henry V
- William Shakespeare



Related Links lead to pathways of further research in the topic tree.

Headings organize the topic thematically and highlight a variety of suitable sources.



William Shakespeare



- Complete Works of William Shakespeare  
MIT (Website)
- Shakespeare's Life  
Monarch Notes (Book)
- William Shakespeare  
BBC History (Website)
- William Shakespeare  
Compton's by Britannica (Reference Book)



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The Play

TEXT, FILMS AND ANALYSIS	1623 EDITION OF SHAKESPEARE'S "HENRY V"
<p><b>The Crucial First Clue To 'Henry V'</b> New York Times (Newspaper)</p> <p><b>Henry V</b> Megal's Survey of Cinema (Reference Book)</p> <p><b>Henry V: Character Analysis</b> Monarch Notes (Book)</p> <p><b>"Henry V" - Shakespeare</b> MIT (Website)</p> <p><b>Polysemic Brotherhoods in Henry V</b> Studies in English Literature, 1500-1900 (Scholarly Journal)</p>	

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Adaptations



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Quote

FROM THE "ST. CRISPIN'S DAY SPEECH"

"We few, we happy few, we band of brothers; For he to-day that sheds his blood with me Shall be my brother; be he ne'er so vile, This day shall gentle his condition: And gentlemen in England now a-bed Shall think themselves accursed they were not here, And hold their manhoods cheap whiles any speaks That fought with us upon Saint Crispin's day!"

— King Henry V, Act IV, Scene III, 74a Complete Works of Shakespeare (Anthology)

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