

HENRY V

The King and Shakespeare's Play

Early Life

- Born in September of 1386 in Monmouth castle in Wales
- His father was Henry Bolingbroke who would eventually go on to become King Henry IV
- Henry V's great-great grandfather was the king of France



Henry IV



- Henry Bolingbroke (Henry IV) was exiled from England in 1398 by his cousin, the king, Richard II.
 - He was exiled to prevent him from possibly being killed by another nobleman in a duel. The other nobleman was exiled for life.
- Dispute over land after his father John of Gaunt died with Richard II led to Henry usurping Richard while he was on a military campaign.
 - Richard II was imprisoned and died mysteriously in prison.
- Henry IV was coronated in October of 1399

Rise to King

- Henry V was made Prince of Wales at 13 and became the heir to the English throne.
- At 16, he led his own army alongside his father at the Battle of Shrewsbury.
 - At the battle, Henry V was struck in the face with an arrow. Continued to fight.
 - A doctor created a special instrument to remove the arrow. Scarred the rest of his life



Rise to King



- For the next 5 years, Henry V led his armies in many battles during the Welsh Revolt of Owain Glyndwr.
- But by 1408, his father's health was failing so he took a larger role in politics.
- Supposed riotous youth.
 - Shakespeare's influence
 - Henry IV plays

Rise to King

- Henry IV died on March 20, 1413.
- He had been dealing with health issues the last 8 years of his life.
- Henry V was coronated on April 9th.
- His lineage was not one that should have made him king, but a series of circumstances placed him on the throne he would hold for the next 9 years.



Domestic Policy



- Henry let many old disputes his father had go.
- Re-interred Richard II
- However, when a rebellion was started by an old friend, he had his friend burned to death as an example that he was not to be messed with.

Henry V - The Play

- Play was written around 1599 and focuses on the events before and after the Battle of Agincourt.
- Final part of a tetralogy (4 part story) with Richard II, Henry IV part 1 and Henry IV part 2, proceeding this play.
- Prince Hal (Henry V) was depicted as a wild youth in the Henry IV plays who hung out with lower class people and partied too much.



Henry V - The Play



- The play deals with Henry V maturing and growing into his role as the King of England.
- It also deals with the fact that he feels that he should be king of France as well.
- We will discuss why when we read the play.
- The play also deals with his campaign in France to take the throne.

Death and Legacy

- Married Catherine of Valois, daughter of Charles VI King of France as part of a peace treaty between the two countries.
 - He was made heir to the French throne as part of the deal. He would become king of France after Charles died.
- Henry died suddenly on August 31st, 1422 from what was probably heatstroke. He had been riding all day in high temps with full armor on a few days before he died.
- He was never King of France because Charles outlived him.
- Henry and Catherine's infant son was crowned King Henry VI. He was 9 months old. Assumed power at 10.
 - He succeeded his grandfather as King of France, but it was disputed for 30 years.

