

Henry V Act 4 Discussion Questions

Chorus & Scene 1

- 1) Read the following passage and examine what transpires in Scene 1. How does it speak to Henry's character? Do you feel like his actions are genuine, or do you feel this is another "stunt" by Henry to inspire his men? You may want to first discuss what Henry does in scene 1.

O now, who will behold
The royal captain of this ruin'd band
Walking from watch to watch, from tent to tent,
Let him cry 'Praise and glory on his head!'
For forth he goes and visits all his host.
Bids them good morrow with a modest smile
And calls them brothers, friends and countrymen.
Upon his royal face there is no note
How dread an army hath enrounded him;
Nor doth he dedicate one jot of colour
Unto the weary and all-watched night,
But freshly looks and over-bears attaint
With cheerful semblance and sweet majesty;
That every wretch, pining and pale before,
Beholding him, plucks comfort from his looks:
A largess universal like the sun
His liberal eye doth give to every one,
Thawing cold fear, that mean and gentle all,
Behold, as may unworthiness define,
A little touch of Harry in the night.

Scene 2

- 2) Summarize the attitude of the French in this scene. Why do they have this attitude?

Scene 3

- 3) Study what might be Shakespeare's greatest speech, the St. Crispin's Day Speech, from line 21 to line 69. It is Henry's final speech before what would seem to be a losing battle. How does he inspire his men? What will they gain by fighting alongside of Henry on this day?

Scene 4

- 4) Why scene 4 (Hint: it has something to do with Henry's speech at the end of the previous scene when he is talking to Mountjoy)?

Scene 5

- 5) What does scene 5 tell us about how the battle is going? How do the French react?

Scene 6

- 6) Look at Exeter's speech about the Duke of York from line 7 to line 32. Is this speech meant to glorify war? Explain your answer using specific examples from the speech.

Scene 7 & 8

- 7) How do these scenes resolve the "quarrel" that began in scene 1 between Henry and Williams? Are these scenes necessary? Why do you think Shakespeare puts them here?