



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, and by 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 countrymen. The king sends word to the dauphin that he will answer this mock in the forthcoming war on France.

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William Shakespeare




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MIT (Website)

Shakespeare's Life
Monarch Notes (Book)

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BBC History (Website)

William Shakespeare
Compton's by Britannica (Reference Book)



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The Play

TEXT, FILMS AND ANALYSIS

The Crucial First Clue To 'Henry V'
New York Times (Newspaper)

Henry V
Megal's Survey of Cinema (Reference Book)

Henry V: Character Analysis
Monarch Notes (Book)

'Henry V' - Shakespeare
MIT (Website)

Polysemic Brotherhoods in Henry V
Studies in English Literature, 1500-1900 (Scholarly Journal)

1623 EDITION OF SHAKESPEARE'S "HENRY V"



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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 The Complete Works of Shakespeare (Anthology)