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English 1 Honors

Ms. Giraudo

King Henry IV Study Questions

11/19/14

*King Henry IV, Part 1*: Study Questions

Directions: you will need to respond to each of the questions below—please keep all questions/your responses in one note in Notability. I will collect at random intervals.

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| **1.1** |  |
| 1. | What is the mood of the opening of the play? What does the King plan to do, and what has he done about it so far? What news keeps him from carrying out this plan?  The mood of the opening play is solemn because the King is worried. The king plans to have a crusade for the Holy Lands, but instead he must hold it off due to civil unrest in his kingdom. |
| 2. | What has happened in Wales (1.1.37-46)? What does the detail about the Welsh women do to our image of the Welsh? There has been a rebellion in Wales. It paints the image of the Welsh as savage like people who have no mercy. |
| 3. | What has happened in Scotland (1.1.49-75)? Why does this make King Henry think of his own son (1.1.77-90)? What has Hotspur ("young Percy") told the King about the Scottish prisoners? How does Westmoreland explain this? The Scotts have been defeated but the commanding officer Hotspur will not give his captives to the king. This make the king reflect on his own son believing that he must raise his ill-mannered son better because he does not want him to turn out like this. Hotspur told the king that the Scottish prisoners they fought honorably and captured 10,000 bold Scotts and 220 knights. Westmoreland says that it is his uncle that is influencing Hotspur not to give the prisoners to the king. |
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| **1.2** |  |
| 1. | We meet Prince Hal and his companion Sir John Falstaff.. What do you make of their language? It's a good idea to try reading it aloud. The language is less formal and much more casual. |
| 2. | In the first part of the scene (1.2.1-93), what sort of person is Falstaff? What does he consider his "vocation" to be? What future event is he looking forward to? What does he expect will happen then? What job does Hal offer him when Hal becomes king? Does the Hal we see here match the description of him we've been given?  Falstaff seems like a foolish joyful young man. He is looking forward for a lifetime of food and petty thief. Yes, he seems as an irresponsible young man. |
| 3. | What news does Poins bring with him when he arrives at 1.2.94? What does he propose to Falstaff (1.2.94-141)? How does Hal respond? (Note that Gadshill is a person, perhaps named after Gads Hill, a hill on the London road near Rochester. The same Gads Hill shows up in literature about 250 years later as the site of Charles Dickens' home.) |
| 4. | Once Falstaff leaves at 1.2.141, what does Poins suggest to Hal, and how does Hal respond (1.2.142-172)? What seems to be the real selling point for Hal? The real selling point to Hal is that gets to rob them without getting caught because Falstaff will will not be their. |
| 5. | How does Hal's soliloquy (1.2.173-195) change our image of him? Read this speech carefully. How do the language and form of the speech differ from the rest of the scene? What is Hal saying in this speech, and what images is he using? Do you agree with lines 182-183? How well is Hal going to be able to carry out this plan? Is he truly in control, or is this an equivalent of Mark Twain's "I can quit smoking whenever I want to. I've done it a thousand times"? He is cautious and not as rash as we thought he was. He is saying Falstaff is a fat guy. Hal says he can carry the lan well because the two guys are cowards. |
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| **1.3** |  |
| 1. | What is the King's attitude at the beginning of 1.3? How does Worcester respond to what the King is telling him? What does the King tell Worcester to do (1.3.14)? Why? The King is more determined and decisive now. He is more in command. Worcester is determined to disobey the king. The king tells Worcester to leave as it is an insult directed at him. |
| 2. | Who are Northumberland, Worcester, and Hotspur and how are they related? (Look at the list of characters on p. 1157, and note the relationship identified in 1.3.136.)Worcester is the uncle of Hotspur. Northumberland and Worcester are brothers. |
| 3. | What different versions of the story of Hotspur's prisoners do we get in 1.3.22-79? What sort of person is Hotspur? We get that Hotspur’s prisoners fought with great valour and honor. Hotspur gets mad so he seems to have a temperament. |
| 4. | How is the issue of Mortimer related to the issue of the prisoners (1.3.76-122)? What different versions of the Mortimer story do we get? Who is Glendower (remember 1.1.34-46)? What is now the relationship between Glendower and Mortimer? (Note in the list of characters on p. 1157 that Mortimer's title is Earl of March, which refers to the English frontier with Wales. And note that Lady Percy, Hotspur's wife, is Mortimer's sister. Remember Worcester and Northumberland, add the Scots, and you've got King Henry's enemies for this play.) Mortimer was supposed to be the successor of the throne. The king believes he is a traitor. On one story we find find him as a coward, the other story we find him as a courageous man. |
| 5. | What happens when Hotspur, Northumberland, and Worcester are alone (1.3.123-254)? What are Northumberland and Worcester trying to do? How cooperative is Hotspur? What do we learn about Mortimer in lines 143-155? How does King Henry compare to King Richard to these men (1.3.156-174)? As we will learn more clearly later in the play, Worcester, Northumberland, and Hotspur were the first supporters of Bolingbroke when he returned from exile to claim his title and estates as Duke of Lancaster. |
| 6. | What is Worcester trying to do in lines 185-254? (See lines 185-191.) How cooperative is Hotspur? What do we learn about his character and behavior in this portion of the scene? Does it match the picture we got of him earlier in the scene? Note especially lines 197-208 and Hotspur's idea about using a starling (lines 218-224).He is trying to urge them to organise a coup and overthrow the king. |
| 7. | Once Worcester finally gets Hotspur's attention at line 255, what does Worcester propose (1.3.255-296)? What other plotter is mentioned? (See lines 263-270. Don't worry--except for a brief appearance in 4.4, York and his plot don't appear until *Part 2*.) The Archbishop of York. Send the prisoners without a ransom to Scotland. |
| 8. | Looking back at the entire scene 3, what sort of person is Hotspur? How does he compare to his father and uncle? Which of them has the best chance of success in his/their endeavors? Which of these characters do you find most interesting and attractive?Hotspur is hot headed and really does not care if he dies in battle or not. He is brash and careless in many ways. He does not like the king similar with the rest of his family. |
| 9. | We've now seen the two worlds of the play, the court world of high politics, and the tavern world of Hal and Falstaff, centering on the tavern in Eastcheap (where we get to in 2.5). Actually, it's better to think of three groups of characters: the King and his supporters, the rebels (Hotspur, Worcester, Northumberland, Glendower, and Mortimer), and Hal and his tavern companions. |
| 10. | How many women have we seen in Act 1? How many women have been referred to? What sort of women are they? What does all this suggest about the world of this play? We have not seen any women. Instead we have heard of women but none have appeared physically in the play yet. This leads us to suggest that we are in a male dominant society. |