***1 Henry 4* Study Guide Questions**

Act 1, scene 1

1. Analyze Henry IV’s first speech.
   1. What is he literally saying?
   2. To whom is he speaking? Does his language sound like one man talking to another? Why/not?
   3. What length sentences does he use?
   4. What figurative language does he use?
   5. What is your overall impression?
2. Compare H4’s first lines to Westmoreland’s.
3. What news does Westmoreland bring?
4. What further news does H4 get from Sir Walter Blunt?
5. What are H4’s thoughts regarding Hotspur and his son Prince Hal?
6. What spoils of battle is Hotspur refusing to hand over to H4?
7. Whom does Westmoreland credit with Hotspur’s attitude?

Act 1, scene 2

1. Compare Falstaff’s first line to H4’s.
2. What does Falstaff want to know, and what is Hal’s response?
3. Discuss Falstaff’s play on the word “grace.”
4. What does this interchange between them suggest about their relationship?
5. What is the general subject of their banter?
6. What is Hal’s response to Falstaff’s line, “Do not thou, when thou art king, hang a thief” (56-7)? Significance?
7. What does Falstaff refer to as his “vocation” (98)?
8. What does Poins have planned? Hal’s response?
9. What does Poins say will be “the virtue of this jest” (174-8)?
10. Analyze Hal’s soliloquy at the end of this scene. How does his language change after he is alone? What are his plans? What figurative language does he use?

Act 1, scene 3

1. What’s the gist of Henry IV’s opening lines in this scene?
2. Whom does H4 kick out? Why?
3. Compare Hotspur’s opening speech to Henry IV’s opening speech in 1.1.
4. What is the story Hotspur (Harry Percy) tells? Any chance you picked up on tone? Hmm? (What is it? Prove it.)
5. What role does Blunt play in these proceedings? How do you know?
6. What is H4’s tone toward Mortimer? What does he call him? What news does he tell the others?
7. Hotspur’s reaction? (Be specific.)
8. What historical information does Worcester share about Mortimer?
9. How/for what does Hotspur chastise his father and uncle?
10. What do Worcester and Northumberland think of Hotspur? (Don’t just go for the obvious—how do they relate to him?) How do you know?
11. What dig does Hotspur get in about the other Harry (Prince Hal)?
12. What are the three prongs of Worcester’s plan?

Act 2, scene 1

1. What are the Carriers and Ostler doing?
2. What comments do they make about their lodgings?
3. Who is Gadshill, and how do the Carriers treat him? Why?
4. What role does the Chamberlain play for Gadshill? What does he tell him?

Act 2, scene 2

1. What has Poins done? Why?
2. List every name that Hal calls Falstaff in this scene. Your comments on them?
3. About what and whom is Falstaff railing?
4. How does Prince Hal set up Falstaff for what he and Poins think will be the best part of the prank?
5. How does Falstaff refer to himself when he is attacking the travelers?
6. Afterward, what decision does Falstaff make about the Prince and Poins regarding the stolen money?

Act 2, scene 3

1. How is Hotspur reading the letter? His mannerisms?
2. What is the gist of the letter?
3. What does Kate ask her husband? What does she say he is doing?
4. What is Kate’s tie to Mortimer?
5. How do Hotspur and Kate relate to one another? What kind of marriage do they have? How do you know?

Act 2, scene 4

1. List all the names Hal calls Falstaff in this scene. | List all the names Falstaff calls Hal.
2. Also keep a running list of insults.
3. In whose company has Hal been recently? What is his tone? In what ability of his, in particular, does he take great pride? Look at his sentence that begins with, “To conclude” (line 16 in the Pelican), and comment on it.
4. What are his plans for Francis? What do they do to him?
5. How does Falstaff speak to Hal and Poins when he first enters the tavern? Discuss his language (any repetition?).
6. Discuss the progression of Falstaff’s story.
7. What does Hal accuse Falstaff of doing to his sword and for what reason?
8. How does Falstaff respond when Hal tells him the truth? And what is he saying about “instinct”?
9. According to the Hostess, who is at the door? What does Hal tell her to do? What does Falstaff do?
10. According to Peto and Bardolph, what did Jack (Falstaff) have them do (and why)?
11. What do Hal and Falstaff think about Hotspur, Glendower, and the Douglas? How do you know? What do they say about them?
12. What do Falstaff and Hal act out?
13. What significance do you find in the line, “I do, I will”? Discuss—explore the implications, considering the characters, their relationship, and their futures.
14. What does Hal do when the sheriff comes?
15. Where is Falstaff, and what do they find in his pocket?

Act 3, scene 1

1. Who is at this meeting?
2. Why are Glendower and Hotspur arguing? Who has the upper hand in the argument? Why?
3. Among which three people has the Archbishop of York divided the land?
4. Who is going from Glendower’s castle to Shrewsbury the next day? Who will meet them there?  
   Who will need two weeks to get his men together and then join them?
5. Over what does Hotspur begin a new argument?
6. According to Hotspur (lines 124-133), what does he hate?
7. How do Mortimer and Worcester chide Hotspur?
8. Compare and contrast the relationships between the two couples, Mortimer & his Lady and Hotspur & Kate (Lady Percy).

Act 3, scene 2

1. What advice does Henry IV give to Prince Henry (Hal) about his exposure, culminating in lines 85-87?
2. What do lines 87-90 say about the king’s attitude toward his son?
3. How does the king then compare Prince Henry to Hotspur?
4. How does the prince respond? What vows does he make?
5. What news does Blunt bring?

Act 3, scene 3

1. Describe the conversation between Falstaff and Bardolph.
2. What do the Hostess and Falstaff argue over?
3. How does Hal play into the scene?
4. How does Falstaff turn things around on the Hostess (Mistress Quickly)?
5. How does Hal’s language change by the end of this scene, and how is this change significant?

Act 4, scene 1

1. What message do Hotspur and Worcester get from Henry Percy/Northumberland (Hotspur’s father)?
2. What excuses does he give? (List them all.)
3. Compare/contrast Worcester’s reaction to Hotspur’s.
4. What news does Vernon bring?
5. What is Vernon’s tone toward Prince Henry?
6. How does Hotspur respond?
7. What other news does Vernon bring?
8. Hotspur’s reaction compared to Uncle Worcester’s?
9. How does the Douglas react?