

Background on *Henry IV. 1*:

(For more detail, see David Scott Kastan's Arden edition of *King Henry IV, part 1*.)

Date: c. 1596 - 7

Sources:

Holinshed's *Chronicles*.

Daniel's *Civil Wars*

Probably *The Mirrour for Magistrates*

A play entitled *The Famous Victories of Henry the Fifth* which may have been
"performed . . . as early as the late 1580s" despite not being published until 1598
(Kastan, 340)

Current criticism most relevant to us: See website.

Style:

Predominantly iambic pentameter. When the lines deviate, assume it is for dramatic effect (even though it might not be) and ask yourself what effect is sought.

Themes or topics of interest:

Honour.

Royal prerogative again, this time in a different fashion from that in *Richard II*. Here, the theme is explored as an issue of how free a prince or king is for his own sake, rather than how free he is to exercise his power over his subjects. We might ask the question, how subjected is Prince Hal?

Perhaps a variation of the same theme: is a king / prince one person, or more than one?

Can a king allow difference in the presentation of his multiple roles? If so, how much?

Great expectations.

Humour.